

# NORTHVILLE RECORD

THURSDAY 07.20.17 || HOMETOWNLIFE.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



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## Rath Yatra celebrates culture

### Annual Festival of Chariots returns

**Matt Jachman**  
hometownlife.com

The Festival of Chariots, a celebration of Indian culture and Krishna spirituality, is expected to attract about 10,000 people for its ninth appearance in Novi on Sunday.

The free festival, also called Rath Yatra for the original, cen-

turies-old chariot festival in eastern India that annually draws more than a million, begins at 11 a.m. at the Novi Civic Center and continues later at nearby Fuerst Park. It will offer Indian music, free vegetarian food, yoga, a variety of exhibitors and an appearance by the Krishna priest Gopal Krishna Goswami.

The highlight, however, is when festival-goers pull an elaborately decorated chariot about four stories in height. The chariot contains representations of

Krishna deities that don't ordinarily appear outside the temple, and having hundreds of people working together to move it down Novi's streets symbolizes the unity that can be achieved when people pull in the same direction, said Madhu Mahadevan of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, or ISKCON, Temple in Detroit, which sponsors the festival.

"Here is a reason for every-

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FILE PHOTO

Hundreds of festival-goers join in pulling the chariot by ropes, for as great or as little distance as they care to go.



SUBMITTED

Nick Parros, a Novi Detroit Catholic Central student from South Lyon, won a surf competition in Virginia.

### Wakefest winner

Nick Parros, a Michigan teen from Detroit Catholic Central High School's class of 2018, earned first place in the Lake Anna Wakefest Competition for Men's Amateur Skim recently at Lake Anna, Va.

Parros is a National Honor Student and a member of the Gabriel Richard Club at Detroit Catholic Central High School in Novi. As he starts his senior year, he is interested in applying to colleges that are in the southeast region where he can continue to compete in wake surfing.

This two-day event was his first at the competition level and his final placement was determined using the "place points" method with judging in accordance with the Competitive Wake Surf Association rules. His category was wake skim.

Parros has been involved in water sports since he was 10 years old, but only recently became interested in competing at a national level.

## Crafty kids create colorful lanterns



PHOTOS BY JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Susanna Bright, 10, works on decorating a Chinese lantern with bits of glue-on colorful paper during a July 12 crafts session at the Northville District Library. All kids got a lantern, glue and paper and an LED light to attach inside the globe to light it up.



Kids work on decorating Chinese lanterns at the Northville District Library on July 12. The Youth Librarians got the idea to hang the lanterns from the feet of upturned seats during the craft session.

## Vote moves closed fire station nearer to reopening

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

In a decision officials say will save lives and protect property, the Plymouth Township Board of Trustees voted July 11 to reopen a north-end fire station that was closed five years ago amid budget cuts.

Supervisor Kurt Heise said he is hopeful the station can reopen by late August in a joint agreement with Northville Township, where a vote on the measure is expected as early as July 20. The two communities plan to assign firefighters to improve response times to neighborhoods near Fire Station No. 2, on Wilcox west of Haggerty.

"Reopening Station 2 will improve emergency response times throughout both communities, saving lives and protecting property," Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise said. "Public safety is the core function of local government and what our hardworking taxpayers expect."

The township board's support of the plan allows Heise to keep a campaign promise he made last year to reopen the station, amid demands from local residents. Plymouth Township has begun the process to hire three new firefighters to accommodate the change.

Beth Birmingham, a resident of the Lake Pointe subdivision on the township's northeast side, said the decision means a faster response to a growing elderly population. She said the area currently is at risk because trains on nearby railroad tracks could stall firefighters from Plymouth Township's other two stations.

"We wouldn't have to worry about that," she said during the July 11 board meeting.

Officials say Plymouth and Northville townships will both have a fire engine and an ambulance housed at station No. 2. Heise also has said Northville Township firefighters have received training that can bene-

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# STATION

Continued from Page A1

fit their Plymouth Township counterparts.

The plan comes with a cost. Officials earlier estimated the price tag for Plymouth Township would be about \$172,000 for the remainder of this year, alone, with higher costs in coming years. Heise has said he is confident the township can afford the plan, partly by curbing spending in other areas such as recreation.

Fire Chief Dan Phillips also has said some costs can be paid with money saved after the township earlier elim-

inated part-time firefighter positions.

Some board trustees who supported the station reopening nonetheless voiced concern about expenses.

“I think that in the long run we’re going to be spending a lot more money than we thought we were going to spend,” Trustee Bob Doroshewitz said.

Trustee Chuck Curmi said Tuesday the township will need to gauge the plan’s success in terms of cost, response time, firefighter morale and overtime expenses.

“How we measure our success is what I’m looking at,” Curmi said.

Phillips said all those factors will be taken into consideration, but

“the number one metric is response time.”

During earlier talks, Phillips had pegged the current township-wide response time to emergencies at 6½ minutes, but some residents in the Lake Pointe area have put the time closer to eight minutes in their subdivision.

The two townships still plan to respond to their own emergencies, but Phillips said having firefighters from both

communities in one station in Plymouth Township will be helpful if either has a need for mutual aid.

“That’s going to be much faster than when we call them today for mutual aid,” he said.

Trustee Jack Dempsey said he believes Huron Valley Ambulance, which also serves Plymouth Township, should be brought into discussions as the joint agreement moves forward.

Heise said he has been in contact with representatives of Gov. Rick Snyder’s office, who have indicated they may tout the joint agreement between the two townships as the direction in which Michigan communities need to move.

Although Fire Station No. 2 closed five years ago, Northville Township last summer had a temporary agreement

with Plymouth Township to use the fire station to avoid delays in response time when Six Mile Road was closed for a construction project.

Under the new plan, either township could opt out of the joint agreement with a 30-day notice.

ddlem@hometownlife.com  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919



BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

The vote is in and Plymouth Township officials have agreed to reopen a fire station that closed five years ago due to budget cuts and layoffs.

## NORTHVILLE RECORD

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### Newsroom Contacts

**Dan Dean, Print Content Editor**  
Mobile: 248-396-0706  
Email: ddean@hometownlife.com

**Brad Kadrich, Reporting Coach**  
Mobile: 586-262-9892  
Email: bkadrich@hometownlife.com



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**Jani Hayden, Director of Sales & Marketing**  
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## FESTIVAL

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one to come together and do something together,” said Mahadevan, who lives in Farmington Hills and is a dentist practicing in Warren. “It’s kind of an explosion of our culture as well as a chance to pull the chariot.”

The chariot procession will begin around 11 a.m. at the Civic Center; the chariot will be pulled west on 10 Mile and then south on Taft to Nine Mile, where it will be turned around and pulled back to Fuerst Park.

Live entertainment and the festival at Fuerst will begin about 1 p.m.; free food provided by Govinda’s Catering will be available.

A new feature this year, kirtan yoga, or yoga

accompanied by devotional chanting and singing, will be performed from 2-6 p.m. at the park, and festival-goers are invited to join in.

The Rath Yatra festival and chariot-pulling are open to people of all faiths — as well as those with no faith — and backgrounds, and Mahadevan said he has seen people from many walks of life participate.

“We’re not there to actually, for lack of a

better term, preach about anything,” he said. “We’re just there to have fun.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Rath Yatra in 1967 in San Francisco, the first held outside of India. There has been an annual festival in the Detroit area since 1985, and Novi has hosted it since 2009.

mjachman@hometownlife.com  
734-678-8432  
Twitter: @mattjachman



FILE PHOTO

The chariot to be pulled at Sunday’s Rath Yatra, or Festival of Chariots, is about 40 feet high and contains representations of Krishna deities. This chariot was at a previous Rath Yatra in Novi.

# BIRMINGHAM

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### Northville Robocamp

The Northville High School Robotics team, the Robostangs, will host its annual Robocamp at the high school cafeteria. At Robocamp, elementary and middle school students have the opportunity to dream up, design, and build a robot using a LEGO EV3 kit. They will have fun playing with LEGOs while learning engineering concepts with the help of a high school mentor.

The Robostangs offer two camps, each for different ages:

» **Beginner camp:** Students entering grades 3-5. Engineering fundamentals will be taught as students experiment with the introductory robot designs and programming techniques. 1-5 p.m. July 24-25. Cost: \$90.

» **Advanced camp:** Students entering grades 6-8. Students will expand upon topics covered in the Beginner Camp. Science and engineering topics covered are more advanced, and students will go into more depth regarding robot designs and programming techniques. 1-5 p.m. July 26-28. Cost \$125.

Register online at <https://goo.gl/forms/gQJ0crvAraGenKlml>. For more information, email [team@robostangs.com](mailto:team@robostangs.com).

### Summer concerts

The Northville Summer Friday Night Concert Series – presented by Tom Holzer Ford – brings the music of some of the finest local musicians to downtown Northville's outdoor stage in Town Square (located on Main Street across from the Marquis Theatre) 7-9 p.m. each Friday through Aug. 25.

The schedule features everything from jazz to blues to rock 'n' roll. For more information, including a full schedule of performances, contact the Northville Chamber at 248-349-7640 or go to [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org).

### Ice cream social

Friends of Proud Lake are having its annual ice cream social from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the Proud Lake Café building in Proud Lake State Recreation Area, 3500 Wixom Road.

This event is free, so come out and have some nice cold ice cream with fixings. For more information, call Gene Pasquantonio at 248-624-6054 or the park office at 248-685-2433.

### Democrat club meeting

The Northville Democratic Club monthly membership meeting will be 7 p.m., Monday, July 24, at the Cady Inn, 215 Griswold Ave., Northville, at Mill Race Village.

Club leaders will discuss the upcoming annual barbecue and other events. Guest speaker will be the leadership of the Michigan People's Campaign to talk about their organization and upcoming events. Free and open to public.

### Carrabba's to host blood drives

Please join us July 31 or Sept. 5 at Carrabba's Restaurant, 43455 W. Oaks, in Novi as Carrabba's partners with the American Red Cross to host blood drives to help save lives. The American Red Cross has a critical blood shortage this summer and has issued an emergency call for blood donors to give now and help save patient lives. Right now, donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in, and

more donations are needed now to replenish the supply.

The Red Cross will be bringing out its mobile bus for the blood drive and the restaurant will be offering a \$10 gift card to all presenting donors and everyone will be entered into a raffle for dinner and movies for two.

The blood drive hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both dates and donors can sign up at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) (sponsor code is Carrabbas) or call 800-RED-CROSS.

### Medical equipment drive

St. George's Episcopal Church, 801 E. Commerce St., Milford, is partnering with World Medical Relief as a drop-off site for your unused medical equipment. Donate your clean, gently used walkers wheelchairs, commodes, shower chairs, crutches, canes, splints, medical boots, adult briefs and pads, sealed C-Pap equipment and sealed medication (no narcotics). We are also collecting for hygiene kits: towels, wash clothes, sample sizes of shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, soap and toothbrushes. We cannot accept glasses, hearing aids or electric wheelchairs.

Drop-off times are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and each Sunday morning through Aug 15. We suggest you call first to ensure someone is available to take your donation during the week. For more information, go to [stgeorgesmilford.org](http://stgeorgesmilford.org) or call 248-684-0495.

### Runestad to host coffee hours

State Rep. Jim Runestad of White Lake will host coffee hours Friday, Aug. 18, in White Lake, Highland and Milford. The coffee hours are at the following locations and times:

» 8-9 a.m. at Leo's Coney Island, 6845 Highland Road, White Lake

» 10-11 a.m. at Colasanti's Market, 468 S. Milford Road, Highland

» Noon to 1 p.m. at Baker's of Milford, 2025 S. Milford Road, Milford

No appointment is necessary. Those unable to attend may contact Runestad at 517-373-2616 or [JimRunestad@house.mi.gov](mailto:JimRunestad@house.mi.gov).

### Health care lecture

Providence Park Hospital is offering a free health care lecture, Do You Know What You're Really Eating? Emily Schwartz will offer this lecture 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 15, at Providence Park Hospital, Novi Campus, Conference Room A & B, outpatient building.

It is no secret that a healthy diet helps reduce the risk of developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes and obesity. But how do you go about it? Picking up any item in a supermarket, chances are you're overwhelmed by all the ingredient listing and buzz words on the label. What part of it is just marketing, and what are the really important facts to watch out for? Learn about the new FDA changes to label terms and how to make the best food choices for you and your family.

For more information or to register, call 888-751-5465.

### Milford summer concerts

The Milford Township Concert Committee presents the Summer Concert Series for 2017 at the Lafontaine Family Amphitheater in Central Park on Main Street in downtown Milford. Free concerts run 7-9 p.m. each Thursday.

» July 20: Persuasion thumps with their high energy hits from Motown

to the Black Eyed Peas.

» July 27: Magic Bus mixes a psychedelic rock tribute with the Woodstock era.

» Aug. 3: Mr. Moody will rock the Amp with their classic rock, country rock, Motown, and everything in between.

Learn more at [www.milfordtownship.com](http://www.milfordtownship.com) or email [concerts@milfordtownship.com](mailto:concerts@milfordtownship.com).

### SL Rec Authority

South Lyon Area Recreation Authority board meetings are held at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month. Call the South Lyon Area Recreation office at 248-437-8105 for directions and confirmation of meeting location. To register for upcoming classes, call or go to [www.slrec.net](http://www.slrec.net).

» Week of July 23: Mad Science "Eureka! Ingenious Inventions"; Mad Science "Look at your world Preschool"; Bricks 4 Kidz – Brick City Engineers Camp; Bricks 4 Kidz – Remote Control Racers Camp; Island Lake Kids Kamp Week 6 "Livin' in the Past"; Choi Kwang Do; Coach Levin's All Star Basketball Camp; Fun-time Basketball Camp; Yoga with Kymm; Tae Kwon Do Family Session

» Week of July 31: Mad Science "Fantastic Discoveries Camp"; Kids Painting & Art Camp; Chess Wizards Camp; Camp Love to Dance; Island Lake Kids Kamp Week 7 "Inventors Workshop"; Building Better Ball Players Camp; Sports Shorts Camp; Kiddie Sports Camp; Beginning Lacrosse Camp; Little Miss South Lyon Pageant; Tiny Tots Equestrian Lessons

### Register for teen camp

Novi Youth Assistance announces that registration has begun for the Summer Teen Center.

Camp runs until Aug. 3 and is held at the Novi High School cafeteria.

Registration fee is \$175 for seven weeks of camp. Students in grades 6-10 may attend. There are 13 field trips this year. Zap Zone, Paradise Park, AirTime, BonaVentre, Detroit Tiger game, Detroit Zoo, C.J. Barrymore's, Emagine, Novi Bowl, Kensington Park, Red Oaks Water Park. There will also be trips to the Novi Police Station, Novi Fire Station, Novi DPS and Novi Public Library.

Daily activities include, sports, games, arts and crafts, learning activities and tutoring.

Summer Teen Center has been around for more than 30 years. This is an affordable day camp teens can come to during the day open from noon to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call Novi Youth Assistance for more information or to register at 248-347-0410.

### Friday and Saturday Night Hangouts

The Living and Learning Center in downtown Northville is a center that specializes in helping teens and adults that are on the autism spectrum learn job and social skills. This center provides a program 6-9 p.m. each Friday and Saturday night that allows their clients to partake in games, art, and creating friendships with their fellow peers and mentors.

Each week, teens and adults learn essential social skills (introducing themselves, carrying a conversation, etc.) while also having a fun night out of the house.

To learn more about this program or to reserve your spot in the program, call 248-308-3592 or go to

[www.livingandlearningllc.com](http://www.livingandlearningllc.com).

### Build A Better World!

The Northville District Library's youth summer reading program runs through Aug. 12. Open to the littlest ones up through 2017 grads – join the Summer Reading or Teen Summer Reading Program and enjoy exciting free activities, crafts, storytimes, reading games, weekly prizes and more. Parents, read to young ones, and help your students maintain – and improve – important reading skills to prevent summer slide. Go to [northvillelibrary.org](http://northvillelibrary.org) for details.

### Huron Valley Ambulance's Camp 9-1-1

Registration is open for Camp 9-1-1 a free, interactive, two-day camp put on by Huron Valley Ambulance for children ages 8-12. Activities include: learning CPR and first-aid with paramedics; exploring emergency vehicles; touring local emergency departments and fire departments; and engaging in interactive presentations from local police and specialty teams.

Camp dates and locations (camp runs 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day): July 24-25, St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital; Aug. 2-3, Van Buren Township Fire Department; Aug. 14-15, Milan Community House; Aug. 17-18, Glaab Individual Financial Planning, New Boston; and Aug. 23-24, Huron Valley Ambulance Headquarters, Ann Arbor.

Pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.camp911.org](http://www.camp911.org).

### Kids in the Park

Milford Cooperative Preschool welcomes the community to join it 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, July 25, for a free event at Central Park, 159 N. Main St. There will be story time, activities and crafts for the kids. It is geared toward children 3-6 years old, but all ages are welcome.

### Artist lecture

The Village Fine Arts Association invites the public at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, to hear guest speaker Kristine Stewart discuss her techniques in clay. Inspired by her concerns for environmental preservation, she uses trees as a focus for her current work because their presence is pleasurable and meaningful to humanity and critically important to the natural world. With a B.A. from U-M, an M.A. from EMU and a lifetime of world travel, Stewart has worked primarily in clay for 35 years.

VFAA informational meetings are free and

open to everyone and are the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October, at the SHAC 125 S. Main St., Suite 700, Milford. The VFAA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization since 1992 that has been operating the SHAC since 2014. For more information, go to [www.milfordvfaa.org](http://www.milfordvfaa.org), email [contactus@milfordvfaa.org](mailto:contactus@milfordvfaa.org) or call 248-797-3060.

### Novi Library concert

Join the Novi Library for a special performance by The Soloists, Patrick Kochyan and Eric Vanbuhler from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, July 28.

The Soloists' story began when Kochyan and Vanbuhler met in elementary school in Novi and immediately began writing songs together. The band was formed in 2007, when they decided they should put a more official name on their work. Now they spend their time writing music and performing on opposite coasts and collaborating whenever possible.

Their debut album, "New Homes," was recorded at Rarefied Recording in San Diego.

### Wooden window repair workshop

Do you own an older house with original windows? Learn how to repair this valuable asset while maintaining the historic character of your home. Find out how to save money, improve window operation and increase energy efficiency with historic window specialist James Turner of Turner Restoration at a workshop from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Heritage Park Nature Center, 24915 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills.

If you love DIY projects, this workshop is for you! Attendees will learn how to remove old sashes; safely remove old paint or finishes; make needed repairs; add energy-efficient upgrades; eplace glass the proper way; and more.

Admission is free for the first 12 attendees who register by Aug. 15. The admission fee is \$25 for all others. Space is limited to 16 attendees.

Register online at [farmingtonhillswindowworkshop.eventbrite.com/](http://farmingtonhillswindowworkshop.eventbrite.com/). Contact Ellen Thackery, Michigan Historic Preservation Network, at [info@mhpn.org](mailto:info@mhpn.org) or call 313-575-5215. Please bring a bag lunch.

### Northville High School reunion

The Northville High School Class of 1997 20-year reunion will be held 6-10 p.m. Saturday, July 29, at the Northville Brewery and Winery. Get

more info or purchase tickets in advance at [nhs97party.eventsmart.com](http://nhs97party.eventsmart.com).

### Milford High School reunion

The Milford High School Class of 1967 will hold a 50-year union 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Lazy J Ranch, 625 Hickory Ridge Road, Milford. Casual dress is preferred and cost is \$55 per person or \$110 per couple. Contact Marlene Perry Gomez at 248-396-3728 or [timmar01@aol.com](mailto:timmar01@aol.com).

### VBS at Solid Rock

"Created by God. Built for a Purpose" is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School at Solid Rock Bible Church. VBS will meet 6:30-8:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, July 24-28. Boys and girls in grades K-5 (determined by 2016-17 school year) are encouraged to come and bring all their friends.

For more information or to register, go to [vbspro.events/pevents/adf689](http://vbspro.events/pevents/adf689) or contact the church office at 248-486-4400 or by email at [solidrocksouthlyon@sbcglobe.com](mailto:solidrocksouthlyon@sbcglobe.com).

Pre-registration appreciated, walk-ins welcome. Solid Rock is located at 22183 Pontiac Trail.

### Art House exhibition

The Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street, will host a juried watercolor exhibition titled The Graded Wash, featuring featuring 29 artists who painted 44 works. It will take place Aug. 2-26 during normal Art House hours: noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free.

An opening reception is scheduled for 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, which will include an awards presentation and a juror's talk a 7 p.m.

For more information, call 248-344-0497 or go to [www.northvillearthouse.org](http://www.northvillearthouse.org).

### VBS at Orchard Grove

Orchard Grove Community Church will hold a be sponsoring a Kids Camp (Vacation Bible School) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 31 through Aug. 3, for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade.

Kids Camp is Minion-themed this year. It is all about fun, friends and faith! Each day kids will venture into the Minion Factory and experience fun through the daily themes: Waterpark Day, Adventure Day, Wild West Day and Gaming & Mad Science Day. [www.ogkidscamp.org](http://www.ogkidscamp.org). Orchard Grove Community Church is located at 850 Ladd Road, Building C, Walled Lake.



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# 'Big Ed' remembered as 'one of greatest human beings of all time'

Brad Kadrich  
hometownlife.com

With a gregarious nature and a grab-life-by-the-throat attitude, Ed Pobur seemed too big to be contained in one simple name.

"Dad" didn't really fit for his kids. "Ed" didn't seem enough for his friends and family.

That's why Pobur was "Big Ed" to nearly everyone who knew and loved him.

"That was one of the greatest human beings of all time," said his daughter, Colleen Pobur, a Plymouth city commissioner. "This guy was an original issue. He had this gigantic personality. He was big and he was hilarious."

That's how Pobur was being remembered this week, after losing a seven-month battle against cancer. Pobur, 84 and a Livonia resident, died July 5.

Pobur spent the majority of his adult life selling cars — Cadillacs, to be exact — working for Massey Cadillac for a long time, then finishing his career at Cadillac of Novi, where his son, Ed Pobur Jr., is general manager.

And he wasn't just average: Pobur was the consummate salesman, having sold more than 12,000 Cadillacs in a prodigious career that started more than 50 years ago.

One of Cadillac's top salesmen for years, Pobur's sales output was more than some dealerships sell in a year. Earli-



"Big Ed" Pobur with his six children on Christmas Eve 1972.



Ed Pobur sold Cadillacs for 50 years. He's shown here with Elise Muntian, customer advocacy manager at Cadillac of Novi.

er this year, he told the Detroit Free Press he had no intention of retiring.

"What else would I do?" Pobur asked rhetorically.

How good was he? The company honored him with a trophy as the "GOAT" (Greatest of All Time) displayed next to his casket at the funeral and, upon hearing of his death, lowered the flag over their New York building to half-staff.

To his daughter, Big Ed's passing has been more a celebration of his life than a reason to grieve.

"I've really only cried two times ... when the trophy came and when they lowered that flag," Colleen Pobur said. "That was pride. It wasn't pain."

The secret to his dad's

success, Ed Pobur Jr. said, was his ability to understand the basics of the sale: Listen, make sure your customers are taken care of and understand it's a service business.

"When you understand all those things and you don't bring ego into the deal, you can sell a lot of cars," Pobur Jr. said. "Always, the customer came first. Almost all the people he sold cars to, those people became friends after that. He was an honorable guy."

His salesman days aren't the only interesting aspect to his life. Pobur served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, but his entry into service wasn't exactly traditional. Nabbed for robbery as a young man, Pobur was tossed in jail (it's important to note

Pobur's record was later expunged).

When a police officer offered him the chance to join the navy in lieu of staying in jail, his daughter said, Pobur jumped at it. Shortly after that, he was one of more than 50 guys on a minesweeper.

When he was done with his service, he returned to Michigan, where he played football for Duffy Daugherty while attending Michigan State University. Pobur was on the 1956 team that beat UCLA in the Rose Bowl.

"I traveled during the war, that was enough," he told the Free Press, when asked if he ever thought of traveling as many do during their those golden years.

He was also a family man. He and his late wife Margaret (they married

in May 1958) had six children, all of whom worked with their father at the dealership. He was also "Papa" to 12 grandchildren.

Colleen Pobur said her parents taught the children to "give and not take" and they've spent their lives doing that. Among the children, Colleen pointed out, are athletic, academic and community service successes that are part of "the piles of accolades about the legacy he left."

"He was just so 'big,'" she said. "He had a huge

zest for life and grabbed everything he could. His gregarious, big-hearted, slap-you-on-the-back nature just drew people in. Everything was an adventure to him."

Pobur is survived by children Colleen (Michael Holmes), Hugh (Carin) Pobur, Maureen Rodts, Edward (Kelly), Stephen (Weevis) and Kathleen (Matthew) Garner; 12 grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

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"M's Reverie," by Sandra Hanert.

SUBMITTED

## Art House to display new exhibition

The Northville Art House is proud to present The Graded Wash, a juried watercolor exhibition featuring 29 artists who painted with watercolor, gouache and other media to create 44 colorful works, including landscapes, seascapes and portraits, as well as, animal, plant and abstract motifs.

The exhibition runs Wednesday, Aug. 2 through Saturday, Aug. 26, during Art House hours, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Northville Art House, 215 W. Cady Street.

Juror Jill Stefani Wagner had the welcomed challenge of selecting these remarkable works from 86 diverse entries. Come 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, to the Art House for the opening reception, with an awards presentation and juror's talk at 7 p.m. to celebrate the following participating artists:

Joyce Bailey (Ypsilanti), Barbara Baker (West Bloomfield), Marchelle Brotz (Northville), Jean Canavan (Saline), Janice Dumas (Milford), Carol Evert (Saline), Espacia Fotiu (Ferndale), Sandra



"The Docks," by Janice Dumas.

SUBMITTED

Hanert (Brighton), Jennifer Helner (Lowell), Christine Ingersoll (Plymouth), Patricia Keckan (White Lake), James Kissel (Ypsilanti), Janet Kondziela (Dearborn), Rosemary Lee (Howell), Lisa Mull (Grand Rapids), Barbara Eko Murphy (Northville), Linda Onderko (Commerce), Patrick O'Rourke (Northville), Julia Pangborn-Harley (Gross Pointe Park), Cindy Rashid (Milford), Julia Rohde (Saginaw), Tom Ryan (Lemont), Nancy Savage (Northville), James Velthoven (White Lake), Harry Villalonga (Rochester), Carrie "Care" Wheeler (Plymouth),

Denise Willing-Booher (Fenton), Susan Wolocko Hassenrik (Northville), and Julie Woodard (Northville).

"Painting in watercolor has been one of the true loves of my life," Wagner said. "I have worked in this medium for over 30 years and it never fails to fascinate me. There is a certain serendipity in watercolor: You can't always control every aspect of it, but sometimes the most wonderful surprises happen."

"I really enjoyed looking over all of the watercolor entries," she added. "Some of the pieces just popped!"

## Second round of county's Adopt-a-Road effort underway

The Road Commission for Oakland County continues to celebrate the 285 groups and organizations that help to clean up Oakland County road-sides by participating in the Adopt-A-Road program. The second round of road cleanup is underway and ends July 23.

"We thank all the groups and organizations that volunteer to clean along our roadways throughout Oakland County," RCOC board Chairman Eric Wilson said.

"The spring cleanup from April 15-23 was a terrific enhancement for many areas and we commend everyone who participated."

There will be a fall cleanup scheduled for

Sept. 23 through Oct. 1.

Any group interested in adopting a paved county road section should call the RCOC Permits Division at 248-858-4891 or send an email to adoptaroad@rcoc.org. Interested organizations will receive orange safety vests, training and garbage bags.

Additionally, RCOC will erect signs at both ends of the designated road sections recognizing the volunteer groups responsible for the sections. Road segments are approved by the RCOC Board of Road Commissioners.

Participating groups are reminded to call the RCOC Permits Division to arrange pick up of litter bags after the

cleanup. Additionally, RCOC relies on groups to call and verify that contact information is current.

Groups needing additional garbage bags or orange safety vests can also call the Permits Division.

Motorists can help augment the effort by slowing down when volunteers are seen picking up trash along roadways and join RCOC in reminding others not to litter. Groups are registered to clean up approximately 453 miles of roadway across Oakland County.

RCOC would also like to remind motorists to dispose of their trash properly and not on the side of the road.

## Livonia assists new Amazon center with tax breaks

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

As millions of shoppers prepped for great deals on Prime Day, Amazon itself received a pretty good deal from the Livonia City Council.

The e-commerce giant, which is scheduled to open a fulfillment center at 39000 Amrhein later this fall in Livonia, was granted an industrial facilities exemption certificate unanimously by the council at its regular meeting Monday night.

The certificate would provide an exemption from ad valorem real and/or personal property taxes on the property. The application turned into the city earlier this summer requests the certificate for 12 years, the maximum amount allowed by the state.

The certificate would apply to Amazon's new fulfillment center, currently under construction off Eckles on the Livonia/Plymouth Township border. The center, the first of its kind in Michigan, would be used to store items sold by the e-commerce website and ship them across the Midwest.

The center, slated to open in October, is expected to bring at least 1,000 jobs to the city. That number could increase by an additional 500 during seasonal employment periods.

The Livonia City Council held a public hearing on the application last month.

### 'Exciting for city'

Councilwoman Maureen Miller Brosnan said the tax credit is



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The exterior appears to be complete. Work continues inside. Service roads and parking area work is underway.

"well worth the effort" in order to get that piece of property back on the tax rolls after such a long time of sitting dormant.

"In addition to the great work that the city and the administration did in securing this, what's most exciting, I think, from a community development perspective, is the chance to bring over 1,000 new jobs to the City of Livonia," she said. "These are jobs that they're looking to fill before Christmas."

"So I think that's amazingly exciting for the city."

She said the company was also looking at Schoolcraft College for a potential source of some employees for the center.

Frank Ruggirello, spokesman for Schoolcraft College, said the school and Amazon have had some talks about hiring students, though he said those talks were still in the preliminary stage.

"We're talking to them and we certainly want to help them," he

said. "We want to help them and they'll be certainly helping us."

Amazon will have to follow several guidelines to continue to keep the tax benefit. That includes notifying the city if the company decides to cease operations in the city or if the company lays off more than 50 percent of its workforce for more than six months.

The warehouse, which is still under construction, will open on the site of the former GM Delco Chassis plant, which is currently owned by Canton-based Ashley Capital. Amazon lists more than \$73 million in investment in the property between the real and personal property investments.

The tax abatement would not be the first relief the company would receive for coming to Michigan: Amazon received a \$7.5 million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Program late last year to aid in recruitment for the center.

The company has already listed some job applications for the center, which include a senior human resources assistant position and an operations manager position, among others.

Since the Livonia center announcement, the Seattle-based company has announced it has plans to open facilities in Romulus and Troy.

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## Kids drawn like magnets to company's first U.S. store

Darrell Clem  
hometownlife.com

Children swarmed North America's first Magformers store in Canton, drawn like magnets to a robot mascot and thrilled by magnetic toy pieces they assembled into buildings, animals, balls and cars.

Daniel Etzel, 12, smiled as he stacked colorful magnetic construction pieces to create a tower that stood about 2 feet tall.

"This is awesome," he said. "I like it because you can build whatever you want."

Daniel came from Romulus with sister Cassidy, 9, and grandmother Rhonda Carlington, who had her own reasons to like the Magformers magnetic toy store.

"It gets the kids off their electronics," she said. "It keeps their brain working and it's fun."

By using magnetic pieces of different shapes, sizes and colors, Carlington said Magformers toy sets just might inspire children to pursue professions such as engineering and robotics.

The store drew a steady stream of customers Thursday as it celebrated its grand opening at 44125 Ford Road, east of Sheldon. Toys moved quickly off shelves.

Magformers toy sets can be bought at other retail stores, but company CEO Christopher Tidwell said the Canton location is one of only five stores worldwide dedicated solely to Magformers toys. Others are in Australia, the United



BILL BRESLER/  
HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
Jill Guinn of Canton helps sons Owen, 4, and Ryan, 7, pick a Magformers set. With the sets, kids and adults can create anything they can imagine.

Kingdom, China and South Korea.

Moreover, the Canton store houses the company's North American headquarters.

Kerri Held came from Milan with children Clayton, 12, Madilyn, 10, and Avery, 8, who already had some Magformers toys at home.

"They're cool," Avery said.

Children — and the young at heart — can build castles, houses, dinosaurs, robots, sea creatures or pretty much whatever they can imagine. They can buy a variety of box sets, each with booklets that offer suggestions.

They can use a remote to drive a Magformers vehicle and incorporate light and sound into their creations.

Freddie Jordan, marketing manager and Canton resident, said Magformers last year was a finalist for Toy of the Year during a competition in New York City hosted by the Toy Industry Association. He said there are 170 different toy sets that can be

found in 61 countries.

"It's so popular because of the unique construction pieces," Jordan said. "You can build pretty much anything you can imagine."

During the grand opening, some children participated in toy-building competitions, while others looked in awe at a Magformers robot mascot.

Toy sets have themes ranging from ocean life to dinosaurs. Tidwell said the number of pieces in a set can range from 14 to 400.

Tidwell, a Canton resident, said the company chose to locate in Canton after looking for potential sites across metro Detroit. He said Canton had the population base, educational level and Ford Road retail corridor that made it a good fit.

Magformers is more than a toy store, Tidwell said.

"It's really a lab," he said. "It's a teaching tool."

Magformers started in 2005, but has increased in popularity in recent years. Tidwell said the toys dovetail with lessons in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

"If we can help to inspire a child in elementary school to love mathematics and science," he said, "I think we have done a good thing for the metro area."

For more on the company, go to [www.magformers.com](http://www.magformers.com).

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919

## Dispensary hopes to pass 'grandma test'

Mark Meisner  
Correspondent

When you think of marijuana dispensaries in the Metro Detroit area, the thought often turns to bulletproof glass, big bouncers at the door and a lack of the ability to feel comfortable on your way in and out of the facility.

Jerry Millen, owner of the Greenhouse Marijuana Dispensary in Walled Lake, has made it his goal to change that and break the stigma surrounding what is expected from marijuana dispensaries.

Millen has talked about his hopes of creating an environment at his dispensary similar to your good old mom-and-pop corner store.

"I want to ensure that my facility can pass the grandma test," Millen said. "It is incredibly important to me to create an environment where all customers and all passers-by feel comfortable in and around my facility."

Located in Walled Lake, the Greenhouse puts a fresh and positive spin on what we have grown to expect from Metro Detroit marijuana dispensaries. When asked about the location, Millen said, "The area is safe and secure, and the neighboring businesses and residences are embracing the big green house that we have been renovating on the corner of Walled Lake Road and Pontiac Trail."

Millen is a family man, and considers his greatest accomplishment in life to be his role as a father. Millen has three kids, twin girls and son, and enjoys spending as much time with them and his wife as possible.

Outside of his family and personal life, Millen is an internationally acclaimed TV producer and former on-air talent who now wants to make his mark on the marijuana industry.

One of the great benefits of the Greenhouse location, Millen said, is its close proximity to the most recognized and respected medical marijuana certification clinic in the metro-Detroit area. The Over the Moon certification clinic has been helping medical marijuana patients get their patient certifications for several years, and they continue to serve dozens and dozens of new patients every week. This clinic specializes in helping patients



SUBMITTED  
Jerry Millen hopes to open the Greenhouse in Walled Lake in the fall.

recognize what type of marijuana is best suited for their needs.

The Greenhouse Marijuana Dispensary is set to open this fall with a series of seminars educating current marijuana users and prospective patients on the benefits of marijuana and how to best use the product.

At each seminar, Millen will be bringing in doctors and patients to speak of the benefits of cannabis.

"While others are trying to capitalize financially on medical marijuana, our goal is to help people understand the benefits of the plant and its many uses," said Millen, who recognizes the importance of a proper education on marijuana and how to use it safely and properly. "Education is the most important issue we are facing as people don't know where to go to get the answers or to find out if they could benefit from marijuana. We are going to offer free classes to educate the public on medical marijuana."

The approach that Millen is taking here to prepare potential patients for marijuana use is incredibly unique and demonstrates his passion for teaching.

By providing free courses for those interested in learning more about marijuana use, Millen is separating himself from the rest of the dispensaries in the Metro-Detroit area in a positive way, again demonstrating his strong stance on providing help and relief rather than personal financial gain.

A huge point Millen will be making throughout the launch of the Greenhouse is the important use of medical marijuana for children suffering from debilitating diseases. Marijuana is becoming more and more of a better alternative to opioid drug use and Millen wants people to understand how to continue to use marijuana safely with their children.

At each seminar, there will also be a question and answer segment so attendees can ask personally catered questions about marijuana. Millen is now also looking for suggestions on relevant topics and ideas to be tossed around at each seminar.

Send all questions and suggestions to Jerry Millen at [medicalgreenhouse@icloud.com](mailto:medicalgreenhouse@icloud.com). Find the business online at [www.greenhouseofwalledlake.com](http://www.greenhouseofwalledlake.com).

## Man caught with shorts down at Rotary Park, jogger reports

Matt Jachman  
hometownlife.com

A man exposed himself as a woman jogged eastward along Nine Mile near Rotary Park in Novi on July 10, according to a police report.

The man's shorts were pulled down and he appeared to be masturbating, the woman told police.

The incident occurred just before 6 p.m., according to a Novi Police Department report.

The jogger told police the man was standing where the Nine Mile sidewalk meets a path to the park. She yelled at him, she said, and crossed Nine Mile, wanting to get away as fast as possible. He did not say anything to her, she said, and she did not see where he went.

The woman was not able to provide a detailed

description.

Officers checked the park and three nearby streets but found nothing suspicious, police said.

The police report said the area where the man had been standing is "mostly hidden" by trees from the view of passing motorists.

The witness, though, told police that it appeared the man wanted to be seen, and that she was certain he was not urinating.

### Job site-vandalism

A portable toilet was tipped over and wiper blades were removed from an excavating machine — and left "neatly" on the machine's tracks — at a job site at Thornton Creek Elementary School earlier this month.

The vandalism was reported July 10 by an employee of the paving

contractor hired to replace a parking lot at the school.

The incident occurred between 5 p.m. July 8 and 6:30 a.m. the next day, the complainant told police.

### Patio furniture stolen

Patio furniture and accessories worth more than \$800, including a \$400 love seat and a \$150 chair, were reported stolen from outside a home on East Bourne Terrace, in the area of Grand River and Napier, on July 10.

The complainants indicated the larceny likely occurred during daytime hours July 10, between about 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., police said.

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# Group art exhibit takes shape in Novi painter's basement

**Sharon Dargay**  
hometownlife.com

Mary Step's walk-out basement is filled with easels, paints, pastels and working artists every Wednesday and Friday.

"My husband built this studio for me. Why not share it? It's a good amount of space and there is always a creative exchange of ideas and techniques and styles," says Step, an oil painter and a former graphic designer.

She arranges for costumed models to pose at both of the weekly three-hour life drawing and painting sessions held at her Novi home.

"I think it's good for the community," she said. "It's now a well-known studio I'm told. The promotion of arts and culture I feel are very important. So anything I can do in some way to contribute to that I feel is a good thing."

Artists drop in to work on figurative and portrait art on Friday. Wednesday is reserved for a group of regulars. Newcomers may join when space is available.

"We've been doing this for 11 years. It's an organic kind of group," Step said. "People come and go. We've had a core group for a long time of maybe six or seven people."

Candace Brancik of Milford heard about Step's studio while taking a class at the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center (BBAC) in 2006. She's an oil painter who also works part time at the Suzanne Haskew Art Center in downtown Milford.

"I got Mary's phone number and I started coming here. This is a lot closer to Milford than the BBAC is," she said. "If you want help with something or if you ask, what's wrong with my picture, they'll critique it for you."

## New show

Brancik figures she has exhibited her work in at least 10 group shows over the past decade with her Wednesday morning colleagues. The group has been working for months on art for a new show, "Inspired By," that will open Sept. 7 at Padzieski Gallery at the Dearborn Community



Janet Kondziela uses oil paints to sketch a model on July 12 at that day's meeting of Mary's Artists. Mary Step hosts the occasional series of painting get-togethers at her Novi home.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

Arts Council. Twelve artists in the Wednesday morning session have taken turns selecting themes for weekly modeling sessions, picking out costumes, props, draping and other de-

tails. For the upcoming show, they'll each select five of their best works, based on all of the paintings they produced during the "inspired" modeling sessions.

"I found a great pic-

ture of Queen Elizabeth, so I decided that would be my inspiration," said Brancik, who will costume a model to resemble Queen Elizabeth I on July 26. "I've got a red wing, jewelry and I'll make a (ruff-style) collar."

Most group members, when it was their turn to create a modeling scene, chose specific portraits or figurative paintings by well-known artists such as Frida Kahlo, Henri Matisse and John Singer Sargent. Jayne Brophy of Livonia drew her inspiration from literature.

"There is a lot of good art in 'Alice in Wonder-

land' and the imaginative theme behind it, so I ordered a costume and tried to find the props and I think it will turn out nicely," said Brophy, who paints in both oil and watercolor.

## Alice

On a recent Wednesday morning all eyes were on Plymouth resident Sydney Graham who was dressed in a pinafore and striped socks while posing as Alice. Classical music set the mood as group members studied the theatrical-style scene that included a tea pot and other props.

"This is so much fun,"

said Susan Parrish, a Livonia resident, as she sketched a detailed portrait of Graham. "I've been coming here for a year and a half. I've grown by leaps and bounds. There is nothing that compares to drawing from life."

"We're reaching the deadline for the show, so we're feeling pressure, but we still have really loved it."

Barb Desmond of Northville said the sessions have been a "god-send" for her work as a pastel artist. She joined nearly two years ago when only one opening was available.

"There are so many people who want to come here because there aren't a lot of places you can paint a live model," Brophy added. "You can go to the BBAC, and Plymouth (Community Arts Council) has one once a month, but no one does it on a regular basis, so this is just wonderful."

Artists learn about Step's studio by word of mouth. Step said she occasionally gets requests from individuals who simply want to observe the painters at work, but she generally discourages such distractions.

She hopes the public will enjoy seeing how the group interprets works by famous artists in the "Inspired By" exhibit.

"I don't know if I've ever seen this done before in a collective way," she said. "I think (the public) is going to find it interesting to see how the mind of the artist today works as they stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us."

sdargay@hometownlife.com



Model Sydney Graham, right, poses for a group of painters at Mary Step's Novi home on July 12.

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

# New Goddard School in Novi takes shape

The newest Goddard School location in metro Detroit is beginning to take shape as framing of the building is now underway, a construction milestone announced by Sachse Construction, a premier commercial construction management firm recognized as one of the most trusted and respected construction partners in North America, and The Goddard School, the nation's premier preschool franchise system focusing on learning through play for children from ages six weeks to 6 years. Todd Sachse, founder and CEO of Sachse, and Derick and Bobbie Doe, owners of The Goddard School located in Novi, made the announcement.

Located at 48600 Grand River Avenue,

The Goddard School's latest location is expected to open later this year. The nearly 10,000-square-foot building will be fully enclosed by the middle of August. Construction initially began on The Goddard School in March 2017. Sachse is the construction manager and Hobbs + Black Associates, Inc., is the architect of record.

"The Sachse team takes great pride in each project we build, but it is especially meaningful to shape the future of our local community with new construction that adds immense value to the lives of our neighbors," Sachse said. "This project in the Novi area will eventually serve as a location for young minds to grow and we're pleased to work with our

partners to build a place that fosters learning and development in future generations."

The Novi location of The Goddard School is the sixth metro Detroit location of the nationally known preschool and day care center. Owners Derick and Bobbie Doe anticipate pre-enrollment events will begin in late summer, with an official opening in the fall.

For nearly 30 years, The Goddard School has remained a trusted name among parents and families throughout the nation. For more information on The Goddard School located in Novi or to contact the owners, go to [www.goddard-school.com/detroit/novi-grand-river-avenue-mi](http://www.goddard-school.com/detroit/novi-grand-river-avenue-mi).



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Here is an artist's rendering of the new Goddard School being built at 48600 Grand River Avenue in Novi.



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# Day trip? History, nature abound across border in Ontario's Point Pelee

Bill Emerick  
Hometownlife.com

When people think of heading south for a vacation, the usual destinations include Florida, the Carolinas or maybe even Texas.

Not many consider Ontario's Essex County as a trip south — unless, of course, you're a Canadian.

Truth is, the flat, rolling farmland of southwest Ontario is the southernmost part of Canada, making it a prime vacation spot for our neighbors to the north during the summer months.

However, Essex County is an ideal area for an extended day trip or a long weekend, especially for Detroit-area residents who are fortunate enough to have easy access to Canada via the Ambassador Bridge or the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel.

And because our hockey-loving brethren are celebrating this year the 150th anniversary of their country's founding, it's a particularly exciting time to make Canada part of your travel itinerary in the coming months.

The smartest way to start a tour of Essex County is to stop at the tourist information center on provincial Highway 3, just a stone's throw from the end of the Ambassador Bridge. The Ontario Travel Association has countless maps, brochures and guides to everything from country inns and antique shops to local wineries and historic sites. The workers are extremely knowledgeable and eager to share insider tips or off-the-beaten-path gems.

Currency can be exchanged there, too, and with the favorable rate, it's a good idea to use Canadian funds while in Ontario.

Once you have all your tourist literature, head south on Huron Church Road and then go west on the E.C. Row Expressway. From there, you can follow the signs toward LaSalle, the first town south of Windsor. It is not the most direct route to Point Pelee National Park, but it does offer a



The Point Pelee boardwalk stretches across the park's marshland.

TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX PEELE ISLAND



Sculpture gardens.

TOURISM WINDSOR ESSEX PEELE ISLAND

fine view of the Detroit River and the many marinas that hug the shoreline.

Motoring along, the first place of interest is Amherstburg, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) south of Windsor. A quaint town of about 20,000, it is best known as the mainland stop for the ferry that takes cars and pedestrians to Bois Blanc Island. Although the amusement park (known as Boblo) is long closed, the island is now home to upscale homes and restaurants. A few remnants of the rides (including the space needle) can still be seen.

Amherstburg is home to many historical attractions, including Fort Malden, the Park House Museum and the North

American Black Historical Museum. In addition, the downtown has many interesting shops and eateries, along with the King's Navy Yard Park near the waterfront.

Fort Malden was established when the British were driven from Detroit in 1796 following the Revolutionary War and was an important military installation during the War of 1812 and the Patriots' Rebellion of 1837-38. The fort is open all year and includes a restored barracks and other buildings. Costumed guides roam the grounds and give demonstrations of army life in the 19th century.

Amherstburg was one of the final destinations of the Underground Railroad, which enabled

thousands of slaves to escape prior to the Civil War, thus the North American Black Historical Museum. The Park House Museum is a former residence restored to its 1850s appearance. Both are open all year.

Continue south along provincial Highway 20 through some of the richest, most fertile farmland on the continent. The land is monotonously flat, dotted by silos and occasional stands of trees.

Passing through Harrow, an inviting stop is the Sprucewood Shores Estate Winery, one of several in the immediate area. It offers tastings, as well as tours Monday through Friday.

A bit further along Highway 20 brings you to Kingsville. Along with being the jumping-off point for the ferry to Pelee Island in Lake Erie, Kingsville is also home to the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Sanctuary, just north of town.

Jack Miner was an internationally known naturalist, author and lecturer who established a bird sanctuary on his former estate in 1904. Visitors can hand-feed many species of birds, including ducks, geese and swans. The Jack

Miner Museum, where admission is also free, allows visitors to view 150 years of historical Miner archives and artifacts. The flocks that visit during the migration seasons are truly spectacular.

Just three miles away you'll find Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, an eclectic outpost that attracts throngs of locals as well as tourists. Here, visitors can view an exotic bird from South America, wander through a petting zoo (including pony rides for the kids), play arcade games, grab a bite to eat and select for purchase from an incredible array of plants — everything from cactus to flowers to shrubbery (be sure to check on customs regulations if you plan on transporting any live plant back to the U.S.). Admission is free, although some activities have a fee.

Get back on the road and head through Ruthven and into Leamington, the self-proclaimed "Tomato Capital of Canada." Once home to a massive H.J. Heinz Co. ketchup bottling plant (it closed in 2014), the roads leading into town are lined with huge greenhouses. Leamington is also the gateway to Point Pelee Na-

tional Park, the southernmost mainland point in Canada.

In honor of Canada's 150th birthday this year, admission fees have been waived at all national parks (there are still fees for activities and rentals). All that's required is a 2017 Discovery Pass, which can be obtained at the entrance.

Point Pelee is one of Canada's smallest national parks, especially considering two-thirds of it consists of marshlands. The 42nd parallel passes through the park and there is a marker at the spot, indicating it's on the same latitude as Rome and Barcelona.

The most fascinating aspect of the park is the extensive marshland, which stretches as far as the eye can see along the eastern shore. An observation tower overlooks the marsh and a 1.5-kilometer boardwalk snakes over the water through the cattails, another favorite stopping point for many species of migrating birds.

From the visitor's center, a marked trail leads hikers to the southern tip, a beach where sunsets are spectacular and stone-skipping is irresistible. There is also a motorized tram that will take riders most of the way.

The park includes several beaches, trails and picnic areas, the visitor's center houses a library and exhibit hall and canoes, kayaks and bicycles can be rented. Expect crowds on the weekends at one of Canada's most popular destinations.

If you still have any energy left, hop back on Highway 3 for the more direct, 45-minute drive back to Windsor. The downtown area bustles with nightlife, particularly along Ouellette Avenue when the sidewalk cafes are in full swing.

Halfway between Leamington and Windsor, the Detroit skyline looms in the distance, with the Renaissance Center visible between the barns and houses of Essex County. It's hard to believe the city is so close, but — as always — civilization beckons.

## NORTHVILLE LIBRARY LINES

### BUILD A BETTER WORLD! Youth Summer Reading Program

**When:** Ends Aug. 12  
**Details:** Northville kids up through those entering fifth grade, join the Summer Reading Program and enjoy books, attend free events and win prizes! Parents, read to young ones and help your students maintain their reading skills over the summer. Register in person to receive your Summer Reading packet.

### TEEN BUILD A BETTER WORLD Summer Reading Program

**When:** Ends Aug. 12  
**Details:** Teens, those entering sixth grade through spring '17 high school grads, stop in and register for your summer reading packet. Complete up to three logs and earn prizes and entries into the Grand Prize Drawing.

### Drop-In Summer Storytimes

**When:** 10:30-11 a.m. Friday, July 21 and 28

**Details:** Fun for all ages! Just drop in! We cannot accommodate special groups.

### App Café: Gardening Apps

**When:** 2-3 p.m. Saturday, July 22  
**Details:** Bring your tablet or smart phone, and enjoy coffee and snacks while we share best gardening apps. Register.

### Foreign Film @ the Library

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 24

**Details:** View the German film "Amnesia" with English subtitles. Set in 1990s Ibiza, Jo arrives from Berlin to be a DJ and befriends Martha, who's trying to forget her past but finding everything she had previously lived by is in question. No registration needed.

### Once Upon a Puppet Show

**When:** 2-2:45 p.m. Tuesday, July 25  
**Details:** Once Upon a Puppeteer's wonderful puppeteer, Nancy Penrose, presents the classic epic tale of "The Seven Chinese Brothers."

100 free tickets available at the Information Desk 10 minutes prior to program. We cannot accommodate special groups.

### Harry Potter Extravaganza

**When:** Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 29

**Details:** It's Harry Potter's birthday! Join us for a party straight out of Hogwarts! Enjoy crafts and the music of the band Tonks and the Aurors. Watch the "Prisoner of Azkaban." Just drop in!

### History of Steam Railroading: Pere Marquette and the 1225

**When:** 7 p.m. Monday, July 31

**Details:** An evening for train lovers and history buffs. Members of the Steam Railroading Institute present a fascinating visual program on local railroading history and the historic No. 1225 locomotive. Event held at Northville Community Center. Register online or in person or call 248.349.3020.



SUBMITTED

A large group of Novi High School students qualified to compete June 21-15 at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla.

## Novi students excel at HOSA conference

This year, Novi High School's HOSA (Future Health Professionals) club had 64 students qualify to compete June 21-15 at the HOSA International Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla. Aside from enjoying Florida's wonderful weather and Disney World, Novi HOSA's students worked and competed hard. The results showed proof of that.

Novi HOSA's 2017

competitive results were amazing.

Fourteen students were in top 10 for their event. Six of those students were in one of HOSA's various team events and eight students individually qualified in the top 10. Even more exciting was the fact that three Novi students came back with a top three medal. Saranya Nistala came in first in her event, physical therapy; Jennifer Guo came in

second in her event, epidemiology; and Robert Chen placed third in his event, knowledge test: pharmacology.

In the health science field, four students from Novi High School were in the top 10. In health professions, two students were top 10 finalists. In leadership, one student was top 10, while in emergency preparedness, another student from Novi placed top 10.





The Kramer family (from left): Max Zimmermann, Greg Kramer, Maggie Kramer, Sharon Kramer and Claudia Kramer.

# Perfect match

## Exchange student finds second family in Oakland County

**Pamela A. Zinkosky**  
Correspondent

Max Zimmermann always wanted a dog, but his mother is allergic to them and he doesn't have the right backyard in his hometown of Nauen, Germany. In September 2016, he got a dog, plus a second family in America.

Zimmermann, who turns 17 this month, spent the 2016-17 school year as a Farmington High School exchange student. His Farmington host family, the Kramers, have a shy Labrador mix dog named Buddy who took a liking to Zimmermann. "He wanted a dog, which we were told was very unusual," said Sharon Kramer, Zimmermann's host mom.

"I had a lot of luck," Zimmermann said. "It was a perfect year. I had an awesome host family. Right now, it feels like I've lived here for years. It's a second life."

Greg Kramer, Zimmermann's host dad, couldn't agree more. "People ask would you host again," he said, "and it sort of gives us pause, because we may never find this good of a fit again."

The Kramers have two daughters. Claudia, 17, will be a senior at Farmington High School next year. Maggie, 13, will be a freshman. "Having two daughters, he's the closest thing I'll have to a son," Greg said of Zimmermann.

"It's a true sibling relationship," Sharon said. "Claudia is the oldest and is sort of straight-laced and a rule-follower. Maggie is the youngest and she would sort of get Max to break the rules."

### A perfect fit

The Kramers had discussed having an exchange student for several years, but decided last August that this would be the year. "The timing just finally seemed right because next year is Claudia's senior year, so I didn't want to steal anything from her," Sharon said.

The Kramers knew about the Youth for Understanding exchange program through friends, so they contacted Barb Kilkka, a YFU field director who's responsible for placing exchange students in Oakland County. Originally, the family wanted to host a girl, but they also wanted someone with math and science interests and many of the girls with those interests were already placed. So they started looking at boys.

Zimmermann, who had a friend from Nauen placed in Texas, said he

wanted to gain a better understanding of English by spending a year here. "My English was really bad before I came here," he said. "I thought, 'They will never take me.'"

"He was very self-deprecating about his English," said Greg, who explained that Zimmermann's profile included an interest in robotics, which fit well since Claudia is on the Farmington Hackbots FIRST Robotics team, but also indicated he struggled with English. However, the profile also included a tape of Zimmermann speaking and Greg thought his English sounded pretty good.

Zimmermann's quiet, humble nature made for a lot of surprises for the Kramers as many hidden talents emerged. For example, the Kramers took a trip to their family cottage in the fall and there was an overturned boat — what the family thought was a row boat — that had been there for some 20 years. Zimmermann asked if he could try to repair it, so Sharon let him, thinking it would never amount to anything.

Little did the Kramers know, Zimmermann recognized a sailboat when he saw one, as he'd done some sailing back home. The sail was in a shed on the cottage's property and, once Zimmermann repaired the boat, he sailed it across the lake, controlling it expertly.

Zimmermann's profile also included an interest in photography, which Greg shares. During the many trips the Kramers took throughout the year, which included Niagara Falls, New York, Boston, Cedar Point and St. Louis, Zimmermann and Greg would go off together to take photos. Zimmermann said he took more than 1,000 gigabytes' worth of pictures. "I bought a new hard drive," he said.

"My family supports me in my photography, but to have someone taking photos with me was a whole new experience," said Greg, who added that, for one of the trips, he surprised Zimmermann by renting him a camera he'd been thinking about purchasing.

### Youth for Understanding

YFU ([www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org)) is one of several exchange programs that place students in area schools. The organization harkens back to post-World War II. Founded in 1951, it was an effort to bring German youth to the United States so they might gain an understanding of our democracy and then help rebuild their country.

Today, YFU brings students from 70 countries to the United States annually. Some 70-80

come to Oakland County annually and about 15 of those are in Farmington Public Schools.

Kilkka, who lives in West Bloomfield and has four grown children, has hosted a whopping 24 exchange students. At 16, Kilkka was a North Farmington High School student who spent a year in Germany and it changed her life, she said. She also was a host sister growing up and had a daughter travel through YFU. "I've seen it from all sides," she said.

As a host mom, Kilkka has learned that there's no "perfect time" to host a student. The students come to receive a real life family experience and that means taking the good with the bad. One year, Kilkka had a brain tumor while hosting a student. Other years, she worked around travel plans with her husband.

"We don't live any kind of perfect life," she said. "We live real lives."

Farmington Hills resident David Hales hosted a student from Macedonia during the 2015-16 school year and now volunteers for YFU. "It was such a powerful, meaningful experience for our family that I wanted to be able to give back," he said.

Hales acts as a second set of eyes on exchange students, meeting with them at least monthly to help resolve any issues that arise. "It helps me to stay connected to the world," he said. "It's so interesting hearing their perspectives, coming from another country. Your world expands."

Hales oversaw Zimmermann's stay with the Kramers. "What a great placement," he said.

### Small moments, lifelong memories

As a YFU student, Kilkka said it's the little things she remembers most, like playing catch with her host father in the yard. "The things that stick with you are the little family moments," she said. "It's these human moments that a tourist will never have."

Zimmermann said his favorite memories were spending time with Buddy, playing board games, celebrating Christmas, taking photos with Greg and making new friends, especially through the Hackbots, which is where he met his prom date, Emma Weishuhn. Zimmermann spent most of his after-school time with the Hackbots and the organization provided a great way to make friends. In Germany, he said, extracurricular activities are not usually connected to the schools, so it's not as easy to make friends with classmates.

Sharon said Kilkka had mentioned that after

Christmas can be a difficult time for exchange students because of the cold weather and lack of activities, but January is when the Hackbots season ramps up, which kept Zimmermann busy and engaged.

Sharon's favorite memory with Zimmermann is also a small moment. "I took him to work and he played checkers with two of my students," said Sharon, who's a speech teacher. She spent some time with students looking up Nauen on the world map and talking to them about Germany. "He made their world so much bigger," she said.

### Search for perfect sandwich

A good döner kebab, a Turkish street food sandwich made with rotisserie meat and vegetables, is hard to find in Michigan, but the Kramers tried. It's the food Zimmermann missed most from Germany.

During their travels to big cities where street food abounds, the Kramers searched for döners and found a few. Brooklyn's Kotti Berliner Döner Kebab had the second-best döner Zimmermann's ever had, he said.

The Kramers honored Zimmermann's traditions when possible. For example, the family went to Kensington Metropark on Easter and watched Zimmermann jump into the frigid water to fulfill his unusual holiday tradition of jumping into a lake. True to form, Greg caught the moment on camera.

Zimmermann returned June 29 to Germany. Since the classes he took at Farmington High don't transfer, he will start his junior year instead of his senior year at his home school next year. But the experience was worth it, since he went home with so many memories and a mastery of the English language, which he plans to use on a return trip someday.

"You experience so much more here in a family," Zimmermann said. "When you travel as a tourist, it's like you see on top of the trees, but here, you are in them."

## Cops warn against scam involving fraudulent dog-selling websites

**Darrell Clem**  
hometownlife.com

They're cute and cuddly — and they are being used to fraudulently obtain money online.

Scam artists are using puppies to steal victims' hearts and money.

Canton police say several residents have reported trying to buy canine companions from out-of-state websites, only to learn they fell victim to a scam.

Detective Sgt. Dan Traylor said most victims lost between \$800 and \$1,200.

"It's just baffling that people would want to spend money without seeing the dog," he said.

But that's exactly what is happening — and police are warning buyers to beware of buying dogs online, especially when the would-be seller asks for payment by MoneyGram or prepaid cards such as iTunes and Green Dot.

Police say honest companies won't ask for such payment methods, which are nearly impossible to recover. Traylor said one website posted photos of dogs supposedly from a Virginia kennel.

Once the scam artists get money, Traylor said, they often make up reasons they need further payment before shipping the dog.

"If you cannot verify the authenticity of a website, you should be cautious making a purchase, especially if you are requested to pay using an untraceable method such as a MoneyGram," Traylor said.

One fraudulent dog-selling website already has been shut down, he said.

The police department suggests online consumers follow these tips to best avoid becoming a victim of scams in general:

» Spot impostors. Scammers often pose as someone trustworthy,

such as a charity or government official. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request.

» Do online searches. Type a company name or product in a search engine with "review" or "complaint."

» Don't believe your caller ID. Technology makes it easy for scammers to program fake caller IDs.

» Consider how you pay. Credit cards have significant fraud protection, but MoneyGrams and prepaid cards do not.

» Talk to someone. Before giving up money or personal information, talk to someone or do some research; scammers usually want quick, rushed decisions and payments. Avoid that.

» Hang up on robocalls. If you hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up; these calls are often illegal and the products are often bogus. Never press "1" to speak to someone or be taken off a list during a robocall. That usually results in more calls.

» Be skeptical about free trial offers. Many sign up would-be customers for products and then bill monthly.

» Don't deposit a check from a stranger and wire money back. Often it can take banks weeks to discover a fake check and by then funds sent have been spent.

» Go to the Federal Trade Commission website to sign up for scam alerts or report scams.

"It is nearly impossible to keep up with new scams that are continually surfacing," Traylor said, but "the best defense against falling victim to fraud is to be an educated consumer."

[dclem@hometownlife.com](mailto:dclem@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @CantonObserver  
734-972-0919



DON EMMERT | GETTY IMAGES

Police are warning people about paying money for pets without seeing them.

### CITY OF NOVI PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Novi will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI to consider **ZONING ORDINANCE TEXT AMENDMENT 18.285 FOR A RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE AT ARTICLE 5. SITE STANDARDS, SECTION 5.2. OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS AND ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS, TO MODIFY THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DEFINITIONS TO BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF THE CITY'S CURRENT AND FUTURE LAND USES.**

All interested persons are invited to attend. Verbal comments may be heard at the hearing. The proposed text amendment is available for examination and review at the Community Development Department, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, Novi, MI 48375 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Any written comments must be received by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, August 9, 2017.

Published July 20, 2017  
Novi Planning Commission  
Michael Lynch, Secretary

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Appointments appear to be cronyism**

Novi Mayor Bob Gatt appears more interested in filling our commission seats with his buddies than in finding people willing to do the work. Last Monday, Gatt and his supporters reappointed two people to the Parks and Recreation Commission who have poor attendance records at the meetings since 2014.

According to the City's own documents, one member attended only 19 of 37 meetings: just over 50%. The other attended only 24 of 37 meetings: just 65%. The person Gatt reappointed to the Planning Commission, meanwhile, has only attended 22 of 53 meetings, or 41%, since 2014.

The planning commission is where many of the most important development issues in Novi are addressed. One would hope that only serious candidates committed to performing the roles of the position would be considered, but that does not seem to be the case.

If appointees aren't willing to show up, city council should give their seats to other residents who will.

There were nine other people who applied, and they had credentials equivalent to the appointed candidates. This is cronyism at its finest. Also, while we're at it,

why is there only one woman on Parks and Rec, and none on the Planning Commission? Is it too much to ask that our city government reflect a diversity of perspectives, interests, and backgrounds in 2017?

Julie Argonis  
Novi

**Wrong health care debate**

"Obamacare" supporters bray from their self-imposed pens without offering any real world fixes for skyrocketing premiums; deductibles (uninsurance barriers to seeking care); physicians opting not to play for puny pay; insurers running from losses.

Insurance is not now and never was the issue. Providing accessible, quality health care at a reasonable cost is.

According to a 1997 World Health Organization study, the U.S. ranks 15th in reaching overall health goals and first in health spending per person. Combining these in WHO's fuzzy methodology, it knocks the U.S. health efficiency rank down to 37th out of 191 countries.

With a leap of imagination, some hope that this WHO rank supports universal health care... a leap too far.

Silence from the halls of Congress may result in a single payer health care system as exemplified by the VA health care system. We're from

the government and we're here to create waiting lists, skimp on new technology and discourage drug innovation. Forget about those 90-day to 6-month waits by Canadians to see a breast cancer specialist. Try not to think about where you will get a high-tech diagnosis and treatment when U.S. equipment becomes outmoded.

Participate in this debate or give up the podium.

Bill Lubaway  
Farmington

**Teen story can inspire**

I am the director of a pro-life organization, Citizens for a Pro-life Society headquartered in South Lyon. Founded in 1985 we have helped hundreds of women who, had it not been for our intervention, would have aborted their unborn children.

I read with great interest the story of Kennedy Griest, who when she was a mere 13 years old, became pregnant and in the most adverse of circumstances opted to give life to her baby. She is a person of enormous courage and moral character and your paper's article about her will undoubtedly give great encouragement to other women who may be facing a difficult pregnancy.

I also found the article ironic for me. In the last 2 months I have been helping a young woman who was seeking an abor-

tion. Without going into a lot of detail, our group spent thousands of dollars to help this homeless woman get on her feet. Sadly, even with all of our help, two days before I saw the article about Kennedy, we learned the woman we were helping had the abortion anyway.

In my vast experience I have come to know that it is not the financial support that ultimately saves babies from abortion. What saves the baby is the moral conviction of the mother's heart to embrace the life of the developing child and honor the life of the baby. That is the key to everything, and Kennedy had that mother's heart.

The article spent a lot of time discussing teen pregnancy. Nearly all the women we help conceived out-of-wedlock, and the fathers are absent. Our culture needs a moral shift. We need to regain the idea that sexual activity, that is the total giving of one's body to another, is tied to the total giving of the heart. Sexual activity is marital activity that provides the secure familial bonds of responsibility for the begetting and raising of children. Only this ethic protects the true sexual dignity of men and women.

God bless Kennedy Griest. She is an inspiration and she made a decision she will never regret.

Your headline read: "mom aims to beat the

odds." She already has.

Monica Migliorino Miller  
South Lyon

**More talk on climate issues**

Last week Randy Kniebes wrote about the Paris Climate Agreement and climate change. His letter is pretty much taken word for word from a Donald Trump speech. I believe readers deserve to know the truth.

First understand the PCA is pretty much toothless. It's not etched in stone and is non-binding, but not meaningless. We have to start somewhere to address climate change. The targets and goals set by us are voluntary and can be changed any time it suits us as finances and technologies grow or shrink. We don't have to give one penny to poor nations if we don't want. Quitting takes us out of a prime leadership role, opening the door for someone like China to lead.

He says China can't be trusted to do the right thing and just won't. But actions speak louder than word China took a huge financial hit by stopping construction of 103 coal-fired power plants and have been reducing coal usage every year since 2012 and are a decade ahead of schedule in reducing their carbon emissions goals.

He says the polar ice cap isn't melting but growing. That's opposite of what NOAA and NASA

say. Forget about that 100 trillion ton, Delaware-sized ice shelf that just broke off. He says global temps aren't rising and violent hurricanes are pretty much nonexistent in the last dozen years. but according to NOAA and NASA, 16 of the last 17 years have been the warmest in recorded history with 2016 being the warmest and 15 of the top 30 costliest and most destructive hurricanes occurred in the last 20 years.

As for that NERA study, it was paid for by the coal, gas, oil and petrochemical industries. NERA has made quite a name in extreme right wing circles penning favorable studies for some of America's biggest polluters. Politifact.org and scores of real scientists say the study is seriously flawed because they use the most extreme worse case scenarios that'll never play out in real life; biased, misleading, hugely exaggerated is how they described it.

Remember when big tobacco paid for a medical study that said smoking wasn't harmful? The NERA study is like that. Don't take my word for it. Please research this info for yourselves. The right wing disinformation machine is in full swing. We need an educated and informed citizenry.

Mitch Dubanik  
Livonia

## Concours rolls out car thrills from million-dollar classics to barn finds

Mark Phelan  
Detroit Free Press

Southeast Michigan's summer-long festival of automotive event revs up this week with a preview of the Concours d'Elegance of America, the region's premier classic vehicle show.

The show Sunday, July 30, caps off a weekend full of automotive events centered on the expansive grounds of the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth.

"We expect nearly 300 vehicles," executive director Diane Flis-Schneider said. They'll range from multimillion-dollar classics to military motorcycles and modern collectibles, a category the organizers created to recognize hot cars and last designs from the 1970s to '90s."

The full weekend of events should draw 14,000 people, with visitors coming from around the world, Flis-Schneider predicts.

Three special guests will bring more than a dozen triumphs of design and engineering ranging from the 1930s to the 2018 model year.

Arturo and Deborah Keller, honored as collectors of the year, are bringing a scintillating group of cars from their private collection in California, which is not open to the public.

That makes the concours a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the Kellers' 1932 Alfa Romeo 8C2300; 1938 Embiricos 4.25L Bentley; 1938 Mercedes Autobahn Kurier; 1938 Talbot-Lago 150C Aero Coupe; and 1931 Mudd Coupe Duesenberg Model SJ.

Fiat Chrysler design chief Ralph Gilles, who



The 1932 Alfa Romeo 8C 2300 coupe is part of Arturo and Deborah Keller's private collection. The couple are being honored as collectors of the year.

penned the Chrysler 300 and many other vehicles, will be on hand all weekend as enthusiast of the year. Gilles put together a collection of cars for the concours under the heading, "Form Follows Passion."

The Gilles' class includes: 1957 Alfa Romeo 1900 SS Zagato; 1967 Alfa Romeo Tipo Stradale; 1969 Alfa Romeo GTV; 2011 Porsche 911 GT2 RS; 2011 Ferrari Italia 458; 1989 Dodge Viper Concept; 1998 Chrysler Chronos Concept; 2004 Chrysler ME412 Concept; 2016 Dodge Viper ACR Extreme; and 2018 Dodge

Demon.

There's also a unique gathering of eight Can Am cars to celebrate the 50th anniversary of that innovative and exciting racing series. Light and powerful, the Can Am cars provided some of motor sports' most exciting racing during the series' run from 1967-74.

In that period, Can Am cars evolved from straightforward sports cars with Weber carbs and cast iron engines to radical aero designs, pioneering lightweight engineering and turbocharged 8.0L engines

that produced nearly 1,000 hp.

Author George Levy will be signing copies of his entertaining book, "Can Am 50th Anniversary: Flat Out with North America's Greatest Racing Series."

Barn Finds expert Tom Cotter will be on hand signing "Cuba's Car Culture," written with Bill Warner, and the just-published "Motor City Barn Finds: Detroit's Lost Collector Cars," which documents two

weeks Cotter spent searching southeast Michigan for overlooked classics last summer.

Wayne Carini of Velocity TV's "Chasing Classic Cars" will host a seminar Saturday, July 29.

The Sunday show also will include: Jet Age Juniors, a collection of the first wave of American compacts from the 1960s; modern collectibles like the Toyota 2000GT and Nissan; and the largest ever gathering of 1964-68 nonflip-top funny cars, the stock-bodied speedsters that changed the face of drag racing.

Other events will include a Saturday seminar on the Dodge Viper to mark the end of that car's production run this summer, plus the Motor City Mingle, a Friday night fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

In all, there will be more than 15 events over three days. Tickets to the Sunday concours are \$35 in advance, \$45 at the gate. Many events, including car and coffee Saturday morning, Carini's seminar on finding classic cars and the Viper roundtable that includes Ralph Gilles, are free.

For details on the full schedule and prices, go to <http://concoursusa.org>.

**CITY OF NOVI  
NOTICE OF ADOPTION  
ORDINANCE NO. 18.281**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF NOVI CODE OF ORDINANCES, ORDINANCE 14-271, THE CITY OF NOVI ZONING ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 5.0 "SITE STANDARDS," SECTION 5.15, "EXTERIOR BUILDING WALL FAÇADE MATERIALS," TO CLARIFY AND UPDATE THE FAÇADE MATERIALS STANDARDS IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE.

The Ordinance was adopted by the City Council on Monday, July 10, 2017 and the provisions of the ordinance shall become effective seven (7) days after its publication. A complete copy of the Ordinance is available for public use and inspection at the office of the City Clerk, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk



The 2004 Chrysler ME Four-Twelve concept car will be at the Concours d'Elegance of America.

# Despite digital, this business is still film-friendly

David Veselenak  
hometownlife.com

Be it developing 50 rolls of film or 100 rolls of film, that was how John Kemski determined how well Express Photo in Livonia was doing when it opened more than 30 years ago.

That's definitely not the case anymore. "Back in the day, when we started here, it was how many rolls of film you did a day was how you based your lab," the Plymouth Township resident said. "You can't really do that today, because it's so diverse."

Even as digital cameras have all but eclipsed their film ancestors, Express Photo, 37108 Six Mile, in Livonia has remained strong in its business. It's gone from being the one-hour photo lab to a printing service and digital editing office. It, of course, still develops rolls of film, though that number is much lower now than it did when it opened in 1985.

Kemski began working as a chef back in the 1980s, owning a restaurant named Center Court inside the Franklin Racquet Club. After owning and operating a restaurant for several years, he happened upon a one-hour photo lab nearby. He was instantly hooked on the concept.

"I was enamored with it," he said. After seeing the strip mall he currently occupies would be built near Six Mile and Newburgh, he decided that would be a great place for a photo lab. It opened in 1985 and remains one of the few original tenants in that strip of shops.

It was great for about 15 years, until right around 9/11, when everything began to change. The economy shifted and digital cameras began making their move in the market, completely changing the way many photographers shot photos.

"It was a complete drop. Everybody started going digital," he said. "Back then, we were like the No. 2 lab in Michigan as far as quantity."

## Film from across the country

Today, Express Photo is one of two locations to regularly develop rolls of film Kemski knows of in the area. The other, Kem-



Shannon Thompson matches the developed film with the proper order envelope.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM



When it comes to developing film, John Kemski's Express Photo is pretty much the only game in town.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

ski said, is Woodward Camera on Woodward Avenue in Birmingham.

So his business adapted, keeping up with the times and offering services to digital photo geeks. He decided to invest in Kodak printing kiosks, which allow users to upload photos and print them right there. He now operates four such kiosks.

It's a model that's seeing positives: the store was bustling with activity one recent Friday after-

noon. One of those shoppers was Northville resident Renee Hall, who came to pick up some photos taken during a Corvette club event that just took place in Windsor.

She said she first heard of Express Photo from a friend and decided to check it out. Now, she brings others to the shop whenever they have photo needs.

"I love this place," she said. "We need a place like this."

Even the film aspect of the business is seeing

growth, thanks to the "hipsters" who have discovered it, Kemski said. In addition to the customers he gets from all over western Wayne and western Oakland counties, the shop is routinely getting film mailed to it from across the country, looking for someone to develop it.

Kemski, who shoots photos for several area schools, including ones in the Plymouth-Canton district, doesn't know if they have ties to Livonia or if they're just looking



Film is taped to a plastic card that pulls the film through the developing processor.

BILL BRESLER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

for an affordable place to develop film.

"There's a lady who lives on Mackinac Island that has a store there; we process all of her stuff. There's some guy in Colorado, there's a guy in North Carolina. Just smatterings, here and there," he said. "They'll mail us five or six rolls, we'll process it and send it back."

He admits it makes him feel old, but Kemski said it's exciting to see a younger generation learn the way he grew up shooting photos.

"We're seeing a lot of younger kids," he said. "They come in here, they drop rolls of film off. It's retro, it's cool."

"I love it ... The quality of film can't be duplicated by digital."

dveselenak@hometownlife.com  
734-678-6728  
Twitter: @DavidVeselenak

# 87 pounds of heroin found in Novi raid

Robert Allen  
Detroit Free Press

Investigators found more than 87 pounds of suspected heroin last week during a raid at a Novi apartment, according to a federal criminal complaint.

DEA agents and the Oakland County Narcotics Investigation Team entered the Brownstones apartment complex unit shortly after 9:30 a.m. on the 42200 block of Joyce Lane on July 10 to find three men inside, along with eight bricks of a light-brown substance on a table in plain sight, according to the complaint from special agent Michael Reamer in U.S. District Court.

With help from a police dog, more suspected heroin was found in the closets and under a seat in a rental car parked outside. A "still undetermined amount of bulk" cash was also found in the closets, according to the complaint.

Andre Lee Scott, Adolfo Verdugo-Lopez and Manuel Arnulfo Barajas, whose ages range from about 22-51 and who were all in the apartment during the raid, were named in the complaint on suspicion of possession with intent to distribute heroin.

The investigators, with a search warrant, had initially arrived outside the second-floor apartment and "loudly announced their presence, with no response," so they got a key from the leasing office to get inside, according to the complaint.

The "sparsely furnished" apartment was found to have 11 kilograms on the table, 27.5 kilograms in the closet and 1.19 kilograms in the rental vehicle — all suspected heroin, according to the complaint. That totals about 87.5 pounds.

The investigators didn't field test the drugs because of concerns that contact with fentanyl or carfentanyl — known to be mixed into drugs such as heroin — can be deadly hazardous.

"Based on my training and experience as a narcotics enforcement detective, I have probable cause to believe that all exhibits are a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of heroin," according to the complaint.

# Woman starts program in Northville for those with autism

With the unemployment rate for individuals with autism around 90 percent, Canton resident Rachelle Vartanian is on a mission. Founder of Living and Learning in downtown Northville, Vartanian is helping individuals with autism and other special needs learn skills to gain employment and independence.

For individuals ready to seek employment and looking for job skills training Vartanian offers The Success Program. Students learn interviewing skills, how to greet customers and other job skills. To provide on-the-job training, Vartanian partners with Maybury Farm, Fresh Thyme, Rebecca's Restaurant and First Centennial Title.

A mother to a teenager with autism and a former special education teacher, Vartanian launched Living and Learning to fill a need. "I felt a sense of urgency to create a social skills group and couldn't find any programs. After many sleepless nights, I took a buyout from my school district and launched Living and

Learning," she said. Living and Learning's programs include a support group for parents, video modeling, social skills programs and more.

"Our Friday and Sat-

urday Night Hang Outs are literally changing lives," Vartanian said. "Young adults who normally sat at home all weekend with nothing to do are now making new friends and making plans

to get together on their own.

"This is a huge accomplishment for someone with autism or special needs," Vartanian said.

Her organization ex-

pects to receive 501(c)3 nonprofit status before the end of the year. Learn more at [www.livingandlearningcenter.org](http://www.livingandlearningcenter.org) or call 248-308-3592.

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# Surgeons at CORE Institute are the first in Michigan to use new therapy

Orthopedic sports medicine physicians at The CORE Institute® of Novi are the first in the Michigan to offer treatment for osteoarthritis and certain orthopedic conditions with a device, called Lipogems®, that can be used as an alternative for in-office applications or as an adjunct to surgery. Lipogems is the only FDA-cleared method that gently micro-fragments the adipose tissue while preserving the cell and tissue micro-architecture.

"Adipose tissue, or fat, contains an ideal source of mesenchymal stem cells and has long been used for support of tissue repair and replacement," said Dr. Jefferey Michaelson, orthopedic surgeon with The CORE Institute. "With its regenerative potential, the Lipogems device can help treat patients with painful joints – including the hip, knee, shoulder and ankle – and certain orthopedic conditions, such as soft tissue defects. This novel technology allows us to remove, process and re-insert the patient's own fat containing stem cells to promote healing and reduce inflammation."

In May, Michaelson became the first doctor in Michigan to utilize the Lipogems device on three patients who were diagnosed with early onset of arthritis.

The Lipogems system is used to liposuction fat cells from the patient's thigh or abdomen while the patient is sedated with local anesthetic. The device then rinses and



The CORE Institute announced it is the first in Michigan to offer a new type of treatment which uses mesenchymal stem cells taken from a patient's own body fat tissue to treat their painful joints using a device called Lipogems. Dr. Jefferey Michaelson, orthopedic surgeon with The CORE Institute, examines the knee of a woman that may be a candidate for the new treatment.

cleans the inflammatory oils and blood from the patient's harvested fat and keeps the natural and beneficial properties of the fat tissue, such as stem cells. The stem cells are then injected to the injured site and tends to remain in the area where injected instead of being immediately reabsorbed by the body. This allows for the body to absorb and maximize the benefits of Lipogems where it

was injected for an extended period of time. Following the injection, the stem cells promote healing and symptom reduction as early as three weeks after treatment. The entire procedure from harvesting to the injection is completed in less than one hour. "More than 27 million people have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis. Patients present in our clinics everyday with

joint pain and may not be ready for a joint replacement. Our goal is to provide them with the best treatment options," said Dr. Sean Bak, orthopedic surgeon with The CORE Institute. "With Lipogems, we can help patients who may suffer from joint pain or injury that limits their ability to perform their daily activities. Our moto is "Keep Life in Motion" and with this new device and

treatment option available, we can do just that for our patients."

Lipogems may be beneficial to patients seeking alternatives to surgery, are not candidates for surgery, wish to use it in conjunction to surgery to promote healing or are suffering from an ailment or injury. Lipogems treatment may be used when standard treatment options such as physical therapy, non-

steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or steroid injections have not provided significant relief.

For more information on Lipogems, go to [www.thecoreinstitute.com/lipogems](http://www.thecoreinstitute.com/lipogems).

The CORE Institute-Michigan has three orthopedic surgeons, Michaelson, Bak and Dr. William Kesto, who are trained and utilizing Lipogems in their clinical practice.

If you have any questions, go to [www.thecoreinstitute.com/lipogems](http://www.thecoreinstitute.com/lipogems) or call 248-349-7015.

The CORE Institute was founded to fulfill a vision of excellence in patient care encompassing the entire spectrum of orthopedic and neurosciences care. The CORE Institute delivers integrated, comprehensive musculoskeletal and neurological care. They are built upon a foundation of pioneering research, academics, community service and a passion for excellence in patient care. The organization continues to be a leader in payor-reform initiatives, and it is at the forefront of systems-based quality programs which drive value and improve the quality of patient care. They are managed by Excellence Headquarters, an outcomes management company in the musculoskeletal space.

Connect with The CORE Institute at [thecoreinstitute.com](http://thecoreinstitute.com) or on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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COLLEGE TRACK

# Track star Williams warms up to Mississippi Valley State

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com

A'Jani Williams is not a fan of cold-weather running. The 18-year-old track standout won't have to worry any more about racing in chilly, blustery, snowy or rainy conditions, which can often curse the beginning of Michigan's high school track season.

Williams' next school practice will be down south in Mississippi's far warmer climate.

The 2017 North Farmington graduate recently signed a national letter of intent to run track and continue her academic career at Mississippi Valley State University. She's looking forward to running for the Devolettes who compete in the 10-team Southwestern Athletic Conference.

"I've always wanted to run down south," said Williams,

*"I ran track in middle school and it was like a test for me to see if I actually wanted to go for it. I didn't know how serious it would be for me until I got to high school."*

**A'JANI 'A.J.' WILLIAMS**

North Farmington grad head to run track at Mississippi Valley State University

better known as A.J. "It's always hot down there and I don't have to worry about like having to go inside because it's too cold and there's snow on the ground. I like running in the heat.

"I'm really excited to get going down there. It's going to be something new for me because it's down south. I've been down south, but never to Mississippi. I know it's hot down there."

**Just 'the right school'**

While she had considered Indiana Tech, Mississippi Valley State's track and medical programs — she plans to get into dentistry — are what ultimately attracted her to the school, which is part of the historically black university group with such institutions as Grambling and Jackson State

See WILLIAMS, Page B2



FILE PHOTO

North Farmington graduate A'Jani Williams will take her sprinting talents to Mississippi Valley State University.



Czerniak

**Lacrosse Classic**

Several area athletes were set to participate at the National Lacrosse Academy and National Lacrosse Classic which concludes this week in Virginia.

Among participants to represent the state of Michigan were Elizabeth Czerniak, a seventh-grader at Meads Mill Middle School in Northville; Rachel Costello, a ninth-grader at Plymouth Christian Academy; Zoe Weber, a ninth-grader at Plymouth High School; and Mallory Brophy, from Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood.

Czerniak, whose parents are Jeff Czerniak and Heidi Zimmer, said her success came from performing on several different teams and organizations, including Northville Parks and Recreation, Triumph Lacrosse and Dwayne Hicks/Total Sports.

The National Lacrosse Academy is a first-of-its-kind lacrosse experience created to provide a curriculum focused on how athletes should develop in order to compete at the high school or collegiate level.

**St. Edith CYO**

St. Edith Athletics CYO fall sports programs are accepting registrations for girls and boys entering grades 4-8 and are members of the following Catholic parishes: St. Edith, St. Colette, St. Kenneth and St. Aidan.

The season begins in September and continues until mid-October, with offerings including boys soccer, girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys football and girls cheerleading.

To register, go to stedithcyo.com, click on the home tab and then the sports registration link and follow the prompts.

Soccer practices and games will be at Ladywood High School; volleyball practices and games and cheerleading practices will be at St. Edith School; football practices will be at Riley School.

There also will be a Little Eagles freshman soccer program for boys and girls entering grades K-3 this fall. It will be a six-week program beginning Saturday, Sept. 9.

For more information, contact Rich Field at 248-914-8620 or email stedithsoccer@gmail.com.

75-AND-OVER SOFTBALL LEAGUE THRIVES

# Livonia seniors still diamond gems

**Brad Emons**  
hometownlife.com

You may be floored by what you might see every Monday morning during the summer months at Livonia's Bicentennial Park.

Didn't that infielder just make a back-handed stop in the hole on a short hop and gun down the runner at first? Or did I just see another guy crush a ball over the outfielder's head and watch it bounce once on one hop against the fence?

Perhaps they need to double-check a few birth certificates in the newly formed Livonia 75-and-over Senior Softball League.

"I would have liked to have seen some of these guys when they playing ball as 19-year-olds, it's amazing," said Don LeMay, a 75-and-over league member who graduated from Livonia Bentley High School in 1951. "And there's a lot guys here who had never played ball and playing with the seniors. And seeing the progress in them, too, is pretty amazing."

The 84-year-old LeMay, who also plays senior softball during the winter months in Winter Haven, Fla., does take advantage of some of the special senior softball special rules, but on this day he kept his designated courtesy runner busy on the base paths with three hits.

"We're still kids for wanting to play ball," LeMay said. "It's just a lot of fun and everybody has a good time. There's no arguing. Every once in awhile you get a little dispute. Nobody really cares who won and who lost when we go home. And we're doing what we've been doing for our whole lives ... playing ball."

The 75-and-over circuit



JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM

See LEAGUE, Page B2 Pete Greenfield, 81, makes contact with a ball during the July 17 senior softball at Livonia's Bicentennial Field.

GIRLS HOCKEY

# Push intensifies to launch Livonia girls team

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

Have ice, Livonia United will travel if that's what it takes for the fledgling high school girls hockey club team to debut in 2017-18.

Janine Martinez — a staunch supporter of girls hockey, as a player and referee over the years — is ready to coach whoever walks through the locker room door when November rolls around.

But so far, she has just eight players and two goalies who attend Livonia Churchill, Franklin or Stevenson high schools committed to play in what would be the first season for the club team.

It would not be a Livonia Public Schools varsity sport because the Michigan High School Athletic Association does not recognize girls hockey as an official offering.

See HOCKEY, Page B2



SUBMITTED Goalie Maddie Marciw, shown making a save for the Suburban Icebreakers girls hockey team in this undated photo, is one of the players committed to the new Livonia United high school squad.

**Mercy needs coaches**

Farmington Hills Mercy is searching for varsity and junior varsity field hockey coaches for the fall 2017 season.

Previous field hockey coaching experience is preferred. The field hockey season runs from August through November.

All interested parties should email a letter and resume to Mercy Athletic Director Nancy Malinowski at Mercy is an all-girls Catholic high school and a member of the Detroit Catholic High School League.



JOHN HEIDER

Ageless softball players enjoy the interaction and camaraderie of the Livonia 75-and-over Senior Softball League.

## SOFTBALL

Continued from Page B1

fields four teams and has — give-or-take — 60 able bodied players.

“With the 70 league the guys were getting older and starting to get marginalized,” said league organizer Jim Andres, a Saginaw native who was the chief accountant for the City of Livonia for 24 years. “There had been talk for a few years about having something for the older guys.”

Former New York Met Al Moran called Andres in the fall and said, “Why don’t we do something?” Because he knew I had some administrative skills,” Andres said. “So the rest is history. A lot of phone calls through the winter, talking to people about what they want. Talking to guys in Florida about how they put it together for the older guys there — and here we are.”

The teams wear four sets of different colored jerseys — blue, red, white and green — donated by the Lake Wales Legends in Winter Haven.

Games are generally nine innings, but can be negotiated down to seven “on hot days,” Andres said.

The 75-and-over Livonia senior circuit follows the special safety rules that are used in Florida senior softball leagues.

The pitchers must wear either shin guards or throw behind a portable screen. The batting team designates a player to call balls and strikes. The plate is a 3-by-2 piece of white plywood. If the ball hits it without contact, it’s a strike.

Bats must be league approved.

Each team has five designated infielders, who must field behind hash marks. The four outfielders have to play

behind designated orange cones. (There are no force outs at second or third base.)

And to avoid collisions at the bags and at home plate, a separate running base is set up outside the regular bases. Batters can also ask for designated runners. Each team is also limited to five runs scored per inning.

“The guys can throw, can hit, but not much on the running,” Andres said.

Catcher Lennie Zundel, the oldest player in the league at 85, uses a designated runner. The retired teamster truck driver for 32 years drives all the way in from Chesterfield Township each Monday morning.

Zundel began playing hardball at age 11 at Detroit Northwestern High School field. He pitched in the 16-and-over, and then played in the Class B Federation League where he was a catcher. He crossed paths with former Pittsburgh Pirate center fielder Bill Virdon and had chance to sign a minor league contract.

“I didn’t go because I was married and had a kid, and she (Zundel’s wife) didn’t like baseball,” Zundel said. “But it was a dream come true.”

After his hardball days, Zundel began playing slowpitch at age 57 and has stuck with it ever since. (He also was a Hall of Fame bowler with a 300 game to his credit.)

So what keeps him going at age 85?

“The guys,” Zundel said. “We joke around and everything like that. We talk about what we did in the past, tournaments and all that stuff. It gets me going at my age because when I get out of bed think, ‘Where am I going?’”

One of the 75-and-over league’s most agile and athletic players is 82-year-old Lorenzo Crosby, who worked production line for nine years and

quality control for another 22 years at Chrysler.

“I retired from Chrysler in 1994 and started playing in 1995,” said Crosby, who plays outfield and pitches. “I played when I was a kid. I started playing baseball when I was about 12 years-old and then after I retired I got into softball.”

Crosby, who plays with a senior team out of Redford, has competed the 14 years in the Senior Olympic Games in St. George, Utah where he has “three bronze, couple of silver and a couple of gold” medal to his credit.

“It’s a fun group,” said Crosby, who is a minister and church organist each Sunday at Trinity Community Presbyterian in Detroit. “And they like to win and so do I. So we have a lot of fun, and that’s the main point. This keeps me going and I like to keep going. I’ve always been an active person.”

And although they may be ageless wonders, the Livonia 75-and-over league loses a player from time-to-time because of a knee, shoulder, hip replacement or arthritis.

“That’s the fun part,” LeMay said of the aches and pains. “A nap is necessary after the game. It’s just a lot of fun. We used to go to the bar and drink beer after, but now we go the restaurant and have a cup coffee and a doughnut.”

The Livonia 75-and-over senior softball league, which does have provisions for a couple of 74-year-olds, plays a 16-game schedule.

And the quality of play seems to get better and stronger each week.

“They’ve got a handle on it,” Andres said. “When you play ball for 50 years, you learn a few things.”

## WILLIAMS

Continued from Page B1

universities.

Mississippi Valley State University’s second-year head coach Fermon Tate Jr. has Michigan coaching ties.

In 2002, he led Detroit Benedictine to the Division 4 state championship and also coached Detroit Country Day graduate and current professional runner Kendall Baisden. In addition, Tate’s son Fermon was a championship middle distance runner at Farmington Harrison and then at Central Michigan University where he still holds the school’s 500-meter run indoor record.

“(Mississippi Valley State) reached out to me and I looked up the school and they have a lot of really good programs I was reaching for in the career I’m trying to go for,” Williams said. “Plus, they have a really good track team as well. I feel like it was just the right school to go to. It wasn’t too big and it wasn’t too small.”

Williams ran track in middle school, but did not seriously start training until her freshman year of high school. Her competitive juices started to take over once she got to North Farmington, improving to the point where she earned a college scholarship.

“I ran track in middle school and it was like a test for me to see if I actually wanted to go for it,” Williams said. “I didn’t know how serious it would be for me until I got to high school. I was always a competitive person, but I never found the sport I wanted to be competitive in.

“I would get first and second places and I found out I was actually good at it. I took the gift that God gave me and put in the work to become really good.”

### Outstanding work ethic

Bill Pinnell, North Farmington’s girls track head coach, believes Williams can make an impact at Mississippi Valley State.

“Through her career at North she has been a hard worker and has been very dedicated to her track and field training,” Pinnell said. “She has basically been a workhorse for us. She has improved and been a consistent performer for us all four years.

“With her work ethic and everything, I think she will have a very successful college career down there,” he said.

Williams’ work ethic paid off in championship fashion.

A sprinter, Williams specialized in the 200- and 400-meter open events, plus the 4X200- and 4X400-meter relay teams at North Farmington.

At this year’s state meet, she led-off the 4X200 relay which finished fifth and registered all four of the team’s points. The Raiders placed seventh in that event at last year’s state meet.

In the 400-meter race, Williams was third at the regional and won the OAA Blue Division championship the past two seasons. In the 200-meter, she



FILE PHOTO

A’jani ‘AJ’ Williams improved throughout her four-year varsity track career at North Farmington and will now showcase her talents at the college level.

captured the OAA Blue title this past spring after placing third in that event as a junior.

### Relay record holder

Williams finished no lower than fourth in each of those individual races as a sophomore at the regional and division championship meets. She leaves North Farmington with a school record as a member of the 4X200-meter relay.

“In my freshman year I wasn’t all that fast. In my eyes I was basically slow my freshman year, but I was still placing,” said Williams, who ran cross country at North Farmington as a sophomore and junior. “So, I knew I had to work harder. I literally grew all of my four years of high school.

“I started off around 30 seconds in the 200 and 65 seconds in the 400. When I was a junior and senior I was down to 25 seconds in the 200 and under a minute in the 400. It was about the training — self-training and self-motivation.

“I was always trying to do something to perfect my times,” she said. “It felt good to improve as much as I did over my career at North Farmington. You know, practice makes perfect.”

Williams indicated track not only allowed her to develop her athletic acumen, but her social skills as well. She called her time at North Farmington a “life-changing” experience.

“Track helped change my view on other things too,” said said. “It taught me about leadership and it taught me of how mental it is. It’s all mental to me. I was working on myself a lot, but at the same time track taught me how to be a team player.

“I don’t just worry about myself. There’s always the next person who might struggle and I would be there to support them. Even when I wasn’t running, I would cheer on my teammates or others from different schools. Everyone’s in the same shoes; you’re not the only one running and the only one going through this.”

## HOCKEY

Continued from Page B1

That means the families of players would need to foot the bill for ice time and provide their own transportation.

“The biggest thing is just getting the support of the community, the rink,” said Martinez, a Livonian. “It’s something that’s been a long time coming. You’ve had, probably in the last 12 years, three groups have tried to get a team going for their daughters to play on a Livonia high school hockey team.

“There’s always been a roadblock. Finally, I broke down the barrier, and now I just need to continue moving forward.”

### Quest continues

Martinez is circulating a Livonia United flier as she steps up efforts to find more players — those not already committed to play on a Michigan Amateur Hockey Association team in 2017-18. Dual rostering is not permitted for girls hockey.

“We’re trying to get players, we’re trying to get support,” Martinez said. “I know that

eight players and two goalies have already committed to playing in the fall.

“... It’s a work in progress. I’ve put so much time and effort into this, I don’t want it to come up and be like, ‘Well, we gave it a good shot, it just wasn’t a go’ and it falls apart.”

In the flier, Martinez (jmartinez1@mi.rr.com; 734-788-8422) said players of all skill levels are welcome to join the team, those who last year skated for Tier 1 or Tier 2 travel or House teams.

One prospective player is her daughter Corrin (entering her sophomore year at Stevenson).

Parents such as Livonians Nicole Marciw and Jeff LaPointe are solidly behind Martinez in her quest to get Livonia United on the ice.

“Giving these girls an opportunity to play hockey for their high school is so important,” said Marciw, whose daughter Maddie (a Churchill student) is committed to being one of the Livonia United goalies. “Most of these girls have watched their friends play for their high school hockey teams in our area and have seen the enjoyment that the atmosphere brings to the girls.

“Playing Tier 1 and Tier 2 travel hockey is not always an option for some of these girls for various reasons. That being said they should have a place to play with friends and that’s what these girls want.”

### Still roadblocks

LaPointe’s daughter, Caroline, also is a sophomore at Stevenson. She didn’t begin playing hockey until she was 10 years old, but has had to skate the past three seasons at Suburban Ice Farmington Hills — a longtime proponent of girls hockey.

The best-case scenario would be if Caroline plays next winter with classmates for Livonia United instead of having to play elsewhere again.

“I’d like to say how proud I am of her for taking hockey up later,” LaPointe said. “I wished she would have started younger, but she’s staying with it. “We keep coming into these roadblocks, especially with Livonia. And we had to leave Livonia because there was nothing for her. We had to play up the street at Suburban.”

He remains confident that Martinez will be able to complete her two-year quest to finally get a girls high school

hockey team in Livonia.

“If we picked up a couple more girls that would be great,” Jeff LaPointe said. “Hopefully there will be some girls out there, when it comes time to lace up their skates they’ll jump on board.”

Although the Michigan Metro Girls High School Hockey League (which includes Livonia Ladywood, Farmington Hills Mercy and the Plymouth-Canton-Salem Penguins) recently gave Martinez and Livonia United the green light for the upcoming season, she doesn’t yet know where the team will practice and play.

She must find ice time for seven home games at the very least.

But with three varsity boys hockey teams already set for Eddie Edgar Arena, as well as various other endeavors (Livonia Knights, mens leagues, etc.), Martinez so far is struggling to find a home rink.

“I just want one sheet (of ice) a week, that’s all I want,” Martinez said. “I can’t believe I can’t get one sheet a week” whether at Eddie Edgar or Devon Aire in Livonia, both operated by the nonprofit Livonia Civic Arenas organization.

After nearly two years of

struggles — trying to navigate Livonia district rules and red tape; finding an “in” at either of the two ice arenas in the city — Martinez isn’t about to give up.

She’s even talked about getting ice time at Garden City Arena as a Plan B.

“No later than 8 or 9 o’clock, I don’t care what day of the week it is,” Martinez noted.

As August looms, the location isn’t as important as the certainty that high school girls from Churchill, Franklin and Stevenson finally will get to skate with their classmates.

“Livonia Hockey has a strong youth program and we don’t want to see these girls stop playing because their high school doesn’t have a team,” Marciw said. “Everyone involved wants to see this happen.”

LaPointe, meanwhile, said he has no hesitation whatsoever that Martinez is the right person to lead the way — mostly because she isn’t about to stop short of her ultimate goal.

“I told Janine, the first one through the door gets the most bloodied,” he stressed. “Let’s get it going first and then we’ll nurture it and let it blossom.”

tsmith@hometownlife.com

## COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

# Michigan Rams closing in on league championship

**Tim Smith**  
hometownlife.com

The Michigan Rams are closing in on a league championship following a successful weekend at Ford Field in Livonia.

Coach Rick Berryman's team (22-4) will clinch the Livonia Men's Collegiate Baseball League title with any combination of two victories or two losses by the Michigan Bulls — the second place team

with a 19-7 record.

On Saturday, the Rams earned a doubleheader sweep over the Great Lakes Diamond Kings, winning 7-4 and 3-1.

In the nightcap, pitcher Jack Ferguson threw a two-hitter, striking out six in the process.

The only run he gave up was in the first inning, and his team scored runs in the second and third innings to take a 2-1 lead.

An insurance run was tallied in the fifth.

Delivering key hits in the victory for the home team were Anthony DiPonio (double), Zack Schmidtke (double) and Patrick Downing (RBI single).

The Rams scored four runs to open up Game 1 and never trailed, with strong pitching by starter Addison Pawelek (10 strikeouts) and reliever Gordon Ferguson (two-thirds of an inning for the save).

Downing (2-for-2, three runs), DiPonio (2-for-3, triple, two runs), Tristen Jorah (3-for-4), Gordon Ferguson (2-for-4, RBI) and Trevor MacDonald (double, three RBI) led the attack.

Other hits were collected by Jordyn Finney and Kevin O'Malley.

On Sunday, Brendan Wetmore (Wayne State) pitched the Rams to a 9-0 victory over A Green, giving up one hit and one walk and striking out 16.

Collecting multiple hits for the Rams were DiPonio (2-for-4, RBI, two runs), Jack Ferguson (2-for-4, three RBI), O'Malley (2-for-3, three runs, two RBI), Finney (2-for-2, run) and Gordon Ferguson (2-for-4, two RBI).

Chipping in with a homer was MacDonald, while Alex Nicholson (Salem) and Downing each added hits.

## TAEKWONDO

## P-CEP United club excels at nationals

**Tim Smith**  
HometownLife.com

P-CEP United showed it can kick it under the spotlight.

The first-year taekwondo club, coached by Master Alexander Covert, excelled July 6 at Cobo Center in Detroit during the inaugural U.S. Collegiate Taekwondo Association high school competition.

P-CEP United, comprised of student-athletes from Canton, Plymouth and Salem high schools, finished second in all three events it participated in against teams from Texas, Maryland and Illinois.

"For our first year we came home with three Silver national championships," Covert said. "I couldn't (have) been more proud. It was also great to see all the parents and fellow Michigan taekwondo athletes. We not only represented P-CEP but our entire state."

Sparring events were done in tag team fashion both for the female and male teams while, in the poomsae competition, P-CEP United girls performed in two specified forms events and were scored on a 10-point basis.

"It truly was a great event," Covert continued. "All team members had a great time. Even though we did not win the entire tournament each athlete had a smile on their face and told me they couldn't wait for next year."

The P-CEP participants at Cobo included males Rafael Marquez (Plymouth), Austin Martin (Salem), Lukas Herrmann (Salem), Matthew Kight (Plymouth), Colin McHugh (Plymouth) and William Cothron (Canton); females Lubna Farhat (Salem), Katherine Springer (Plymouth) and Andrea Herrmann (Salem).

"We had athletes step out of their comfort zone," Covert noted. "Katherine Springer, a true poomsae athlete, fought for her first time so we could compete in the female sparring division,

"Lubna Farhat and Andrea Herrmann both returned the favor ... and did poomsae (with Springer), making them the only three girls in the entire country to have ever placed in both the sparring team and poomsae team at a high school team nationals.

"My men's team fought with a lot of heart and that's something you can't teach."

According to Covert, with



The P-CEP United Tae Kwon Do Club finished second in several events at the U.S. Collegiate Taekwondo Association's first-ever high school competition, held July 6 at Cobo Center in Detroit.



Performing in the girls poomsae (forms) event at Cobo Center are (from left) Lubna Farhat, Andrea Herrmann and Katherine Springer.



P-CEP United's Katherine Springer (left) competes in a sparring event July 6 at Cobo Center in Detroit.

the nationals streamed over the Internet, he has since received a wealth of e-mails and text messages about bringing

taekwondo to their schools.

"Taekwondo teams are coming to high schools all over the country and are coming fast,"

he added.

Anybody interested in contacting Covert about perhaps starting a team should email

him at [covertkd91@gmail.com](mailto:covertkd91@gmail.com).

[tsmith@hometownlife.com](mailto:tsmith@hometownlife.com)  
Twitter: @TimSmith\_Sports

## JUNIOR BASEBALL

## South Farmington Little League team advances to state finals

**Marty Budner**  
hometownlife.com

South Farmington Little League's junior baseball team is headed to the state tournament finals.

The South Farmington boys qualified after sweeping Taylor in the best-of-three sectional series held Saturday at Harrison High School. South Farmington excelled in all phases of the game to take down Taylor, winning the first game 11-1 and coming back strong for a 2-0 shutout victory in the second game.

The sectional champs now head to the state tournament scheduled for July 27-30 in Charlevoix. South Farmington will be one of eight teams competing for the state's Ju-

nior Baseball (13-14 years) Little League crown.

"This is the first time since 1975 that any baseball team from our league will be playing for a state championship," head coach Scott Johnson said. "It's amazing. It's probably the biggest thing we've ever done."

"The biggest thing is I feel so happy for the kids because they work so hard. It's just one of those goals we set out to do and we finally accomplished it. We set out to try and put ourselves on the map and stuff like this is definitely going to do it."

"We worked so hard and it's the most surreal feeling to finally get past the step that we've been stuck at for three years. Now we have to see what we can do at the state

tournament."

South Farmington hurler Gabe Smith went the distance and was in total control of the opener as he allowed only three hits in the five-inning game decided by the mercy rule.

Zach Ivanac led the offense with three hits while Tyler Johnson added a pair of hits. Isaac Brendel smacked a clutch third-inning, base-loaded double which plated all three runners to help break open the game.

"Everybody on the team was close to getting a hit, if they didn't all get a hit," said Johnson. "Our bats were just totally alive and we played very well."

In the second game, South Farmington pitchers Michael

Crawley and Eoin Hubbard combined for a one-hitter.

The winners scored what proved the game-winning run in the first inning on a ground out by Vince Hardy which brought home Brendel. South Farmington scored the insurance run in the fourth inning when Ivanac scored on a base hit by Brendel.

"This game was an absolute total defensive game," Johnson said. "They had guys on second and third two innings in a row and we held them. And our pitching was outstanding over the seven innings."

South Farmington advanced to the sectional by winning the District 4 championship July 8 with dominating wins after outscoring its three foes by a

64-3 margin.

The team's other players include Danny Brenner, Ryan Angeliu, Jack Donehue, Steven Ihm, Peter Barraco, Ian Width and Jonah Musial.

The South Farmington Little League's Lady Bombers participated in the Majors (12-under) girls softball state tournament in St. Clair over the weekend. The Lady Bombers dropped their three games in St. Clair, losing to Tecumseh (7-3), to host St. Clair (11-0) and West Branch (7-3).

The girls, coached by Steve Dickson, became the first the SFL softball squad to advance to the state finals. The Lady Bombers qualified for states by winning the District 4 championship with a recent three-game sweep of Holly.



Crystal Cruises courts travelers who might otherwise charter their own vessels. The company's luxury yacht Esprit offers a submersible vessel. BY SPENCER CRISTAL CRUISES

# VACATIONS OF THE 1%

## LUXURY ADVISERS MAKE THEM PERFECT

JILL SCHENSUL  
SPECIAL FOR USA TODAY

The rich really are different from you and me — at least when it comes to travel.

For ordinary travelers, the Presidential Suite might sound like the ultimate luxury. For the traveler with the 25,000-square-foot home or office, though, it's not much of a wow.

"It's going to look like a closet," said travel adviser Bobby Zur, owner of Travel Artistry in Franklin Lakes, N.J. His agency is part of Virtuoso, a worldwide network of luxury travel advisers, whose membership is by invitation only. Zur's clientele includes rock stars, billionaires, CEOs and pro sports icons.

Luxury travel isn't about the biggest and the most lavish anymore. The rich have been there, bought that. Today, they're spending their money — investing it, actually — in experiences rather than material possessions. "It's really about intangible things," Zur says. "It's about how they're made to feel."

Small is big today in luxury travel: boutique hotels; private airline terminals; special-access tours; and those little touches that have always been part of the "VIP treatment."

And more Americans are in that VIP category now than at any point in U.S. history: There were an estimated 10.8 million millionaires by the end of 2016, up 400,000 from just the year before. The wealthy travel more and spend more per trip; the luxury market is growing almost a third faster than the overall travel industry.

The established brands in the luxury market — from accommodations such as Aman Resorts or Four Seasons to cruise lines such as Silversea, Crystal and Uniworld, and tour operators such as Butterfield & Robison, Abercrombie & Kent, Lindblad Expeditions and Micato Safaris — are adapting to the new luxury traveler in ways big and small.

High-end hotels are emphasizing more personalized service, providing training in how to anticipate guests' needs, solve their problems, manage crises. At the Fairmont Pacific Rim in Vancouver, for instance, VIPs get monogrammed bathrobes, pillowcases, or both, and toiletries with the guest's name printed on the label. And in case you felt like taking a run or hike and only packed your pumps or oxfords, they'll send up a pair of Nikes you can borrow, in just your size.

Wellness has become a major focus for luxury travelers, so hotels are ramping up their spa services — some offering treatments reflecting local traditions. Hotels are meeting the demand for authentic and unique experiences by arranging anything from an after-hours museum tour with the curator to a cooking lesson with a local chef. Marriott teamed up with hotelier Ian Schrager for its luxury Edition brand, where the staff includes a cultural director responsible for programming and events.



REMOTE LANDS

Catherine Heald, CEO of Remote Lands, says the very rich "want smooth, seamless, service and flawless logistics." That's why Heald charts helicopters to whisk her clients to Everest Base Camp. Time, for the very rich, is a precious commodity.



JACK BROCKWAY

Cost-no-object travelers can book Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands for complete privacy.

### CRUISING FOR LUXURY

Cruise lines are making some of the biggest waves in the luxury arena.

One emerging trend, according to Carolyn Spencer Brown, editor in chief of *Cruise Critic*, is the "luxurification" of expedition cruising. "It used to be — and sometimes still is — that an expedition cruise was considered luxury because of the hard-to-get-to destinations it visited — places like the Galapagos and Antarctica," she says. Originally, the accommodations were basic. "Now, lines such as Crystal, Ponant and Scenic have created ships that carry cruisers to adventure in a luxurious ambiance," offering personalized service by butlers, or private helicopters in port.

Dining also is being revamped. Silversea's Silver Muse, which made its debut recently, has eight restaurants and no main dining room. Today's luxury travelers don't want to be told what to do — they want choice.

There's long been a yacht-style of cruising (Seabourn was a pioneer, and Windstar is top of the line now) but Crystal's Esprit and Scenic's upcoming Eclipse both are courting the type of traveler who might otherwise charter

his or her own vessel.

Cruise ships also are creating exclusive areas for their luxury clientele. The Haven on Norwegian Cruise Line top deck features the "most luxurious" suites (a three-bedroom villa among them), private inner courtyard with pool, butlers, dedicated restaurants, and priority on and off status in ports.

Crystal arguably is taking the deepest dive into luxury: Along with the ultra-luxury yacht Esprit, it launched Crystal Luxury Air, a private jet charter service, in April. Crystal AirCruises debuts in August, offering round-the-world journeys via private jet. For those who need to stay put for a while, the company has a portfolio of Crystal Residences.

### PERSONALIZED EXPERIENCES

Some critics say that the new luxury options — especially those "behind the velvet rope" arrangements, such as The Haven, may be creating resentment and animosity between the classes (not unlike walking through first class to your seat in coach). On the other hand, the proliferation of luxury and experiential options gives the average traveler an opportunity to go for the occasional

splurge, say, on a great hotel room while still going budget on other parts of a trip.

The options for luxury are more plentiful today, but that one-percenter — the billionaire, the A-lister, the client Bobby Zur works with, for instance — isn't taking a trip right off the rack.

"The one-percent want blow-me-away experiences," says travel adviser Catherine Heald, CEO of Remote Lands, part of Virtuoso, whose clientele skews affluent and ultra-affluent. "They want to do things and go places that no one else has gone, to earn bragging rights for dinner party conversation, such as taking a helicopter to Everest Base Camp," she says.

They use travel advisers because "they want smooth, seamless, white glove service. Flawless logistics. If they are taking a route that has no commercial air service, such as from Chiang Rai (in Thailand) to Siem Reap (in Cambodia), they will charter a small jet rather than take a connecting flight in order to save half a day, which is precious to them."

"True luxury is getting exactly what you want, in the precise way you want it," says Terrie Hansen, senior vice president of marketing for Virtuoso. "It sounds straightforward, but it requires an actual human being to fulfill, and I go back to the importance of the human connection. If you want to impress someone who has everything, make sure they get what they want before they have a chance to ask for it."

Luxury travel advisers focus on making that connection; Virtuoso even offers a certificate course in it. Clients may not know exactly what they want on the initial visit, and advisers will spend hours to get to the heart of a client's vacation aspirations.

Zur has his clients fill out a questionnaire, asking about their best vacation ever, notable disappointments, favorite hotels and other basics that provide subtle guidance and insight.

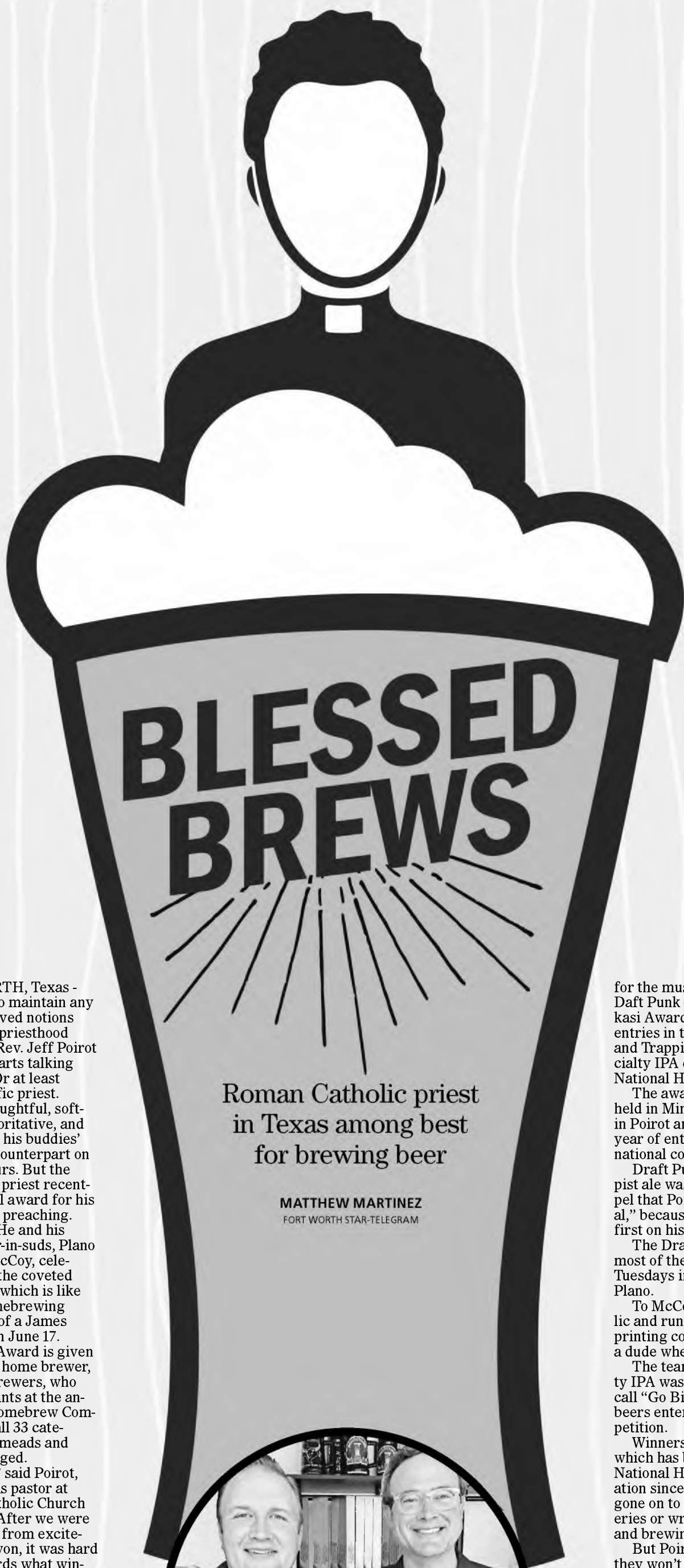
His fees range from \$500 to \$1,000. For that, they get the benefit of Zur's travel connections, among other things.

One such connection was the key to fulfilling a request from one of Zur's clients, a "legendary international pop/rock band" that wanted a place to rehearse and bond for two weeks before starting their next world tour. It had to be in or near Turin (Torino), Italy. It also had to accommodate 20-plus people, including the band members and staff. And it had to be completely private.

A friend who was the GM of the Four Seasons Milano put him in touch with a 90-year-old "contessa" whose family finances were flagging. He and the band's travel manager persuaded her to rent the estate to the band. "They then proceeded to turn this 12th-century palazzo into a 21st-century high-tech space with Wi-Fi." They brought in new beds, built a music studio, and went on tour.

One more travel memory that will last a lifetime — for the band, the contessa, and Zur.





**F**ORT WORTH, Texas - It's hard to maintain any preconceived notions about the priesthood after the Rev. Jeff Poirot of Fort Worth starts talking about his beer. Or at least about this specific priest.

Sure, he's thoughtful, soft-spoken yet authoritative, and plays the role of his buddies' more reverent counterpart on his (few) off hours. But the Roman Catholic priest recently won a national award for his brewing, not his preaching.

That's right. He and his brewing partner-in-suds, Plano resident Nick McCoy, celebrated winning the coveted Ninkasi Award, which is like winning the homebrewing world's version of a James Beard Award, on June 17.

The Ninkasi Award is given each year to the home brewer, or in this case brewers, who win the most points at the annual National Homebrew Competition across all 33 categories of beers, meads and ciders being judged.

"It's surreal," said Poirot, 43, who serves as pastor at Holy Family Catholic Church in Fort Worth. "After we were done screaming from excitement when we won, it was hard to put it into words what winning the Ninkasi means to us."

The award is named for the ancient Sumerian goddess of beer. Some of the earliest evidence of beer in human society dates back to a 3,900-year-old Sumerian poem, titled "Hymn to Ninkasi," which is basically the first recorded beer recipe in human history.

But closer to Poirot's brewing heart is the Trappist brewing tradition, which was started by Belgian monks in the Middle Ages.

He and McCoy have taken what they call "bros trips" to several of the remaining Trappist monasteries and their breweries, including Westvleteren, whose Westvleteren 12 has earned the title of "world's best beer."

The duo — who named their homebrewing outfit Draft Punk as a play on Poirot's love

### Roman Catholic priest in Texas among best for brewing beer

MATTHEW MARTINEZ  
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM



MATT MARTINEZ/STAR-TELEGRAM VIA AP  
Nick McCoy, left, and the Rev. Jeff Poirot won the 2017 Ninkasi Award for home brewers in June 2017, in Fort Worth, Texas.

for the music of electronic duo Daft Punk — won the 2017 Ninkasi Award with first-place entries in the Strong Belgian and Trappist Ale and the Specialty IPA categories at the National Homebrew Awards.

The awards ceremony was held in Minneapolis this year, in Poirot and McCoy's third year of entering beers into the national competition.

Draft Punk's winning Trappist ale was a Belgian Quadrupel that Poirot calls "Jeffestival," because the pair brewed it first on his 43rd birthday.

The Draft Punk duo hold most of their brew days on Tuesdays in McCoy's garage in Plano.

To McCoy, who is also Catholic and runs a Dallas-based printing company, "Jeff is just a dude when we're brewing."

The team's winning Specialty IPA was a black IPA they call "Go Big." There were 8,613 beers entered in the 2017 competition.

Winners of the Ninkasi, which has been awarded by the National Homebrewers Association since 1992, have usually gone on to either open breweries or write books about beer and brewing.

But Poirot and McCoy say they won't continue that tradition by entering into Dallas-Fort Worth's already crowded craft beer market.

Father Jeff might take on a speaking engagement or two as a result of his newfound enlightenment in the realm of beer. He may guest-host a beer podcast once or twice, but he already has a job he's pretty into.

"For me, I always want to balance (brewing) with being a priest, because being a priest is primary, first and foremost for me," Poirot said.

"This is a hobby, and it's a hobby I've done all right with. So I would never want it to eclipse what I do ... because my role as a priest takes precedence. You can have a busy life. You can have commitments with family and work, but you can still do something you love."

JOHN HEIDER | HOMETOWNLIFE.COM  
**Mi Abilities** employee Miles Tauber drizzles melted milk chocolate on some popcorn during a July 7 production session at the Milford business. Tauber and fellow Mi Abilities employee Tommy Goike spent most of the day preparing tray after tray of flavored popcorn that Mi Abilities sells in local markets.



# Special-needs adults earn praise and a paycheck at Mi Abilities

Sharon Dargay  
 hometownlife.com

Bear Hall is on a mission to find meaningful work for young adults with disabilities. "What started this three years ago was I heard a statistic that in Huron Valley, from ages 25-54, there had been 1,200 kids on IEPs (individualized education program) and only 8 percent of them got a job," he said. "Ninety-six out of 1,200. And I said something has to change



Hall

and it can't just be jobs pushing carts and bagging. "It's got to be a meaningful job so they can learn something, be happy about doing it and want to come to work. It's got to be a good job."

Hall, the retired father of two adult daughters with special needs, opened the nonprofit micro-enterprise Mi Abilities last year with help from his wife Cheryl, other parents, volunteers and retired teachers. The organization hired nine young adults that had aged out of the special education program in Huron Valley Schools.

They work from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. five days a week, producing organic skincare creams, shredding paper, creating pallet art and vinyl lettering and designs, stacking and selling firewood, coordinating tent, table and chair rentals, or making and packaging gourmet popcorn inside a building at the Halls' residence on Wixom Trail in Milford Township. They earn minimum wage and their parents are asked to donate a few hours working alongside the unpaid staff, other volunteers and employees.

"We have seven small divisions, so it keeps everyone busy. What I think is nice about this is the variety. Sometimes we're doing popcorn, sometimes shredding, sometimes firewood," Hall said. "It is their company, not mine. They do all the interaction with the customer."

One recent Wednesday, Nick Arce of Highland listened to music while feeding paper into a home office-sized shredder. Hall recently bought a commercial shredder capable of devouring 90 pages at a time. Arce and other employees will be trained on the new equipment after it's installed in the wood shop.

Joe Bishop, a volunteer and a Milford resident, met Hall through the local American Legion. He says he does a "little bit of everything" with Mi Abilities and enjoys teaching the young adults how to safely use power tools. "This stuff is kind of dangerous, so we have to watch them," he said. "This keeps me busy, too, so I don't sit home and watch TV all day."

## Enjoying his job

Bishop, Hall and Devon Jacobson, an employee and Milford Township resident, recently installed rest-room vanities made by Mi Abilities at Baker's of Milford. After leaving Huron Valley Schools, Jacobson attended a two-year trade school where he focused on cabinet-making.

"I chose cabinetry because that is something needed in the industry," Jacobson said, adding that he enjoys his work at Mi Abilities. "I love being outside mainly, so I'll be outside with the wood. I'll help move stuff around. I'll help build cabinets. I'll make popcorn. I like keeping busy."

The gourmet pop-

corn, available in five flavors and in three container sizes, is on store shelves in 53 locations, including Busch's, Papa Joe's in Rochester Hills and Birmingham, Holiday Market in Royal Oak and Randazzo markets, among others. Hall said Meijer has shown interest in the product, but Mi Abilities would need more room and more help to supply the gourmet snack to 335 Meijer stores. He's looking into the possibility of using the commercial kitchen at Brooks school. This fall, he plans to work with students in the adult transition program, the district's post-secondary special education program.

"Eventually, when they do transition out of the program, they'll know what to do if they come here," he said. "And we're branching out to South Lyon schools."

Susan Toth, special education director for South Lyon Community Schools district, said 16 students are enrolled in the district's post-secondary special education program, which emphasizes work skills and offers students job experiences.

"We've recently started communicating with Bear. I got interested in hearing about Mi Abilities. We serve students through age 26 and many are able to work," she said.

## Athletics, jobs, homes

Hall has big plans for Mi Abilities beyond Milford and South Lyon. He hopes to expand the program to other districts and eventually to other states.

Creating jobs is the second of a three-part strategy to assist young adults with developmental disabilities. The first phase was growing Special Olympics locally.

"I started with the team back in 2000 and then took over running it and fundraising in 2005. In the early 2000s, we only had two sports. Now we have 14 sports, 27 teams and 146 athletes."

Finding homes for special-needs adults is the third part of his plan. Hall hopes to start looking at buying condominium complexes in a few years, although that may seem like a pipe dream, considering the organization's financial needs.

"We're not making great money, but we're not losing money," Hall said. "We're growing fast."

He started a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$30,000 needed to bring water to the Mi Abilities building, to buy more tools, and to help pay for the commercial shredder, which cost \$2,200.

"Then I'll be able to turn a profit and reinvest it. Right now the business is not paying any bills. I'm paying for electricity out of pocket and the heating and cooling," he said. "I'd rather raise the money in three months than in three years. I'm passionate about putting these young adults to work. I believe every one of them can contribute to society."

sdargay@hometownlife.com

# Passages

Obituaries, Memories & Remembrances

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## Drews

**Marilou E.** a longtime resident of Milford, passed peacefully on July 10, 2017 after living with Parkinson's Disease for many years. She is survived by her sons, Michael Wayne (Vicki) Drews, Mark William (Tone) Drews, Martin Richard "Ben" (MiSuk) Drews; grandchildren, Cortni, Steve, Vance, Jefferson, Kaja, Benjamin Aleksander, Benjamin Frederick; brother, David Elliott; devoted and loving caregiver, Jennifer Poppy, as well as extended family members and friends. Services will be held privately. For further information phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248-684-6645 or visit [www.LynchandSonsMilford.com](http://www.LynchandSonsMilford.com)

## Klingensmith

**Christopher Douglas** age 25, of Dayton, passed away on Tuesday, July 4th, 2017. A memorial service will be held at 2:00pm on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at Routsong Funeral Home, 2100 East Stroop Rd., Kettering. The family will greet friends one hour before the service. For complete remembrances and condolences, please visit [www.routsong.com](http://www.routsong.com).

## Lampinen



**Justin R.** age 27, passed away July 11, 2017. He was born January 10, 1990 in Livonia. Justin was a talented guitarist and a gifted carpenter. Because he was known for his great sense of humor and his ability to always make others laugh, Justin always became the life of the party. Nothing brought Justin more happiness than being with his wife and children. He will be remembered as a good son, a devoted husband to Abbey, and a great and loving dad to Draven and Maverik. Justin is survived by his wife, Abbey; his children, Draven and Maverik; his father, Eric (Cindy) Lampinen; his mother, Renee (Mark) Storms; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Caren (John) Gilbert; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Bill (Myra) Jobe; and his step-parents, Mark (Becky) Zemko; his siblings: Douglas Lampinen, Daniel Lampinen, Blake (Carli) Lampinen, Jennifer Jobe, and Erica (Calvin) Heikkila. Justin is also survived by his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Samuel Jobe, Emily (Jared) Wilson, Jeffrey Jobe, and Elizabeth (Jay) Smela, and by many nieces, nephews, and loving friends. funeral services were held on Monday, July 17 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

## Maher



**Barbara Carole** a longtime resident of Milford and Highland, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 73. In addition to Edward, her beloved husband of 55 years, Barb is survived by their sons, Christopher (Mary) and Stephen (Elisa); grandchildren, Allison, Matthew, Jenna, Michael and Meghan; great-grandchild, Kennedy as well as extended family and a host of dear friends. Funeral Liturgy will be held at Church of the Holy Spirit, 3700 Harvey Lake Rd., Highland on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 10 AM. The Rev. Fr. Wayne Ureel to officiate. Gathering will begin at 9 AM at the church. Burial will follow at Milford Memorial Cemetery, Milford. Memorial contributions encouraged to: Community Sharing where Barb has been instrumental in the growth and success of the foundation. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford at 248.684.6645 or visit [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

## Middleton



**Keith D.** age 36, passed away July 12, 2017. He was born February 9, 1981 in Ann Arbor, son of Colleen and the late David Middleton. He was known for his creativity, his compassion towards others and his strong will. Keith loved music and loved to write. He will always be remembered as a good and loving son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend. Keith will be missed by his mother, Colleen; his sisters: Megan (Paul) Wise and Stephanie (Todd) Gacki; his aunts, uncles, cousins, and too many friends to count. He was preceded in death by his father, David. Visitation was held on Sunday, July 16 and on Monday, July 17 at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, South Lyon. A funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, July 18 at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Keith was laid to rest in South Lyon Cemetery. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

## Robinson



**Wayne Bruce** a longtime resident of Milford, passed away on July 15, 2017 at the age of 62. Wayne was well-known as the longterm assistant manager of the Village Butcher of Milford. Wayne was preceded in death by his son, Greg Robinson; his father, Wayne P. Robinson; and his sister, Laura Susan Robinson. Wayne is survived by his son, Jason Robinson; grandchildren, Kyle, Jordan, and Skye; mother, Barbara Robinson; sister, Christine (Phil) St. George; great-nieces and great-nephews Brenden, Kevin, Greyson, Kiara, and Ryan as well as his longtime significant other, Tina Mudel and extended family and friends. Funeral Service will be held from Lynch & Sons Funeral Home, 404 E. Liberty St., Milford on Thursday, July 20, 2017 at 7 PM with gathering to begin at 4 PM. The Rev. Fr. Paul Castelli to officiate. For further information, please phone Lynch & Sons, Milford 248.684.6645 or [www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.LynchFuneralDirectors.com)

## Saner



**Marjorie D.** age 95, a longtime resident of Northville passed away peacefully July 13, 2017. She was born February 7, 1922; daughter of Fredrick and Blanche (nee Roberts) Opdenhoff. Marjorie was united in marriage to Julius Saner on November 27, 1951; they spent 62 loving years together until his death in 2014. Marjorie is survived by her loving children Denise (Doug) Jordan and Lyle (Carol) Jones; 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents. Private services were held. She will be laid to rest at Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville. The family would appreciate memorial contributions to Alzheimer's Association. Please share condolences at [www.casterlinefuneralhome.com](http://www.casterlinefuneralhome.com)

## Wallace



**Clara Jane** affectionately known as Corky, passed away July 15, 2017 at the age of 97. She was born December 30, 1919, in New Orleans, Louisiana, daughter of the late Leon and Clara Adams. She married William Wallace in 1949 at St. Monica Catholic Church in Detroit where she had been a member since childhood. Clara was a devoted and active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church for many years. She is survived by her daughter, Catherine (Carl) Ciarrocchi; her granddaughter, Meghan (Kevin) Kruslensky; two step-grandsons, Craig Ciarrocchi and Christopher Ciarrocchi; her great-grandson, Tasman; and her siblings: Beverly Frechette and Joyce (Larry) Kliemann. Clara is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, Godchildren, cousins and friends. Clara was one of the first residents in Centennial Farms, and she will be remembered by her kind and caring neighbors, especially Bill O'Rourke, Juanita Walker, Dana Howe and Paulette Brodbeck. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill in 2002 and her siblings: Enid Day, Brandon Adams, Emil Adams, Betty Adams and Shirley Chase. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, July 19 from 2:00PM-8:00PM at PHILLIPS FUNERAL HOME, 122 W. Lake St., South Lyon. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, July 20 at 10:30AM in state at 10:00AM at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 830 S. Lafayette, South Lyon. Clara will be laid to rest beside her husband in South Lyon Cemetery. [www.phillipsfuneral.com](http://www.phillipsfuneral.com)

## Whittington



**Louise A.** July 16, 2017. Age 105 of Northville. Whittington, Louise longtime resident of Northville, passed away peacefully on July 16, 2017. Beloved wife of the late Ebbie Whittington. Loving mother of Donna (Dale) Beamish, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Louise was truly happy when she was working with flowers, then later on working at IV Seasons Flower Shop. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made to Angela Hospice, 14100 Newburgh Rd. Livonia, MI 48154. Care and services have been entrusted to the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home Northrop - Sassaman Chapel, 19091 Northville Road, Northville 48168. Share a "Memorial Tribute" with the family at [GriffinFuneralHome.com](http://GriffinFuneralHome.com)



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Bible Study: After Both

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Sunday Worship: 10 am  
Children's Church 10:10 am  
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www.milfordumc.net

## Novi

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Wednesdays, 6:45-8:15 p.m.  
Awana, 3 yrs old thru 5th grade (Sept.-March)  
and Youth Group for 6th grade and older  
Website: milfordbaptist.org

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1250 South Hill Rd.  
(248) 685-3560  
www.opcmilford.org  
Contemporary Worship Service:  
8:30, 10:15, and 11:45.

**FAITH COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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1/2 mile west of Novi Rd.  
www.faithcommunity-novi.org  
WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10 AM  
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Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
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734-347-1983 pastor cell  
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south Lyon, mi (248) 437-0760  
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& 10:45am  
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Rev. Kenny Walkup, Assoc Pastor  
southlyonfirstumc.org

## Northville

**First Presbyterian Church of Northville**  
www.fpcnorthville.org  
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Sunday School for all ages, 10:30 am.  
248-349-0911

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Matthew Oliver, Minister

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60820 Marjorie Ann St., South Lyon 48178  
Phone: 248-437-2983  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
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## How social media can affect your job search

BY MARY LORENZ  
 CAREERBUILDER

These days, when you apply for a job, employers are looking at more than your résumé. According to a recent CareerBuilder study, 70 percent of employers now go online to research potential candidates. In many cases, this works to the job seeker's advantage: 44 percent of employers who have researched candidates online found content that helped convince them to hire a candidate. Other job seekers are not so lucky, however. More than half of employers (54 percent) decided not to hire a candidate after seeing their social media profiles. So what do some get right about social media that others get so wrong? Learn how to use social media to your advantage during a job search with the following tips.

**DO: Google yourself.** The survey found that 69 percent of employers use search engines like Google and Bing to research candidates, so use these platforms to search your own name to see what comes up. Delete anything offensive that you are able to, advises Robert Siciliano, CEO of IDTheftSecurity.com. If you see something you don't want employers to see, delete it yourself or find the



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person who can and ask them to remove it. "Once you've removed what you can, then start the process of pushing out good stuff," Siciliano says. "This means propagating social and search with digital content that would make your mother proud. The more good stuff that shows on the first few

pages of search, the more the bad stuff will be pushed down into the abyss."

**DO: Pause before you post.** Since potential employers might be viewing your social media profiles, be mindful of what you post online. "The freedom of speech is

necessary and good, but so is being tactful and graceful," says Laine Schmidt, a professional development coach. "If you have an opinion to share, consider the many audiences who will be reading it and ask yourself if it is at all offensive [before posting it]."

**DO: A little damage control.** Take some time to go through your social media profiles and remove any posts or photos that come across as unprofessional. "Social media gives potential employers a glimpse into who you are and how you conduct yourself," says Dustin Montgomery, digital marketing specialist for Shippers Supplies. "If all they see are pictures of you partying on Facebook and bad mouthing others on Twitter, you are going to come across as less than professional and hurt your chances of getting the job."

**DO: Stay active.** "Being active on LinkedIn and posting updates in your industry/field is always a plus. In addition, you can also use your social media accounts in a more professional manner," says Mike Flanigan, senior corporate recruiter at Oldcastle, a leading building and products manufacturer. "For instance, on Twitter, you can follow companies in your industry,

tweet informative content and engage with thought leaders."

**DON'T: Delete your social media accounts entirely.** If you think going "off the grid" will help your chances of landing a job, think again. According to the survey, more than half of employers are less likely to call someone in for an interview if they can't find a job candidate online.

**DON'T: Be afraid to show off a little.** "It doesn't hurt to talk about achievements [on your social media pages]," says Nicole Smartt, vice president of the staffing firm Star Staffing. This may include anything from articles you wrote that were published or a race you ran. "Past achievements, past work and passion help to color in the person that you are ... Résumés and cover letters are great for work-related details, [but] they often do precious little in making a dynamic picture of who you are," Smartt says. The more you show who you are in your profile, the easier it will be for employers to find a good cultural fit.

Mary Lorenz is a writer for the Advice & Resources section on CareerBuilder.com. She researches and writes about job search strategy, career management, hiring trends and workplace issues.

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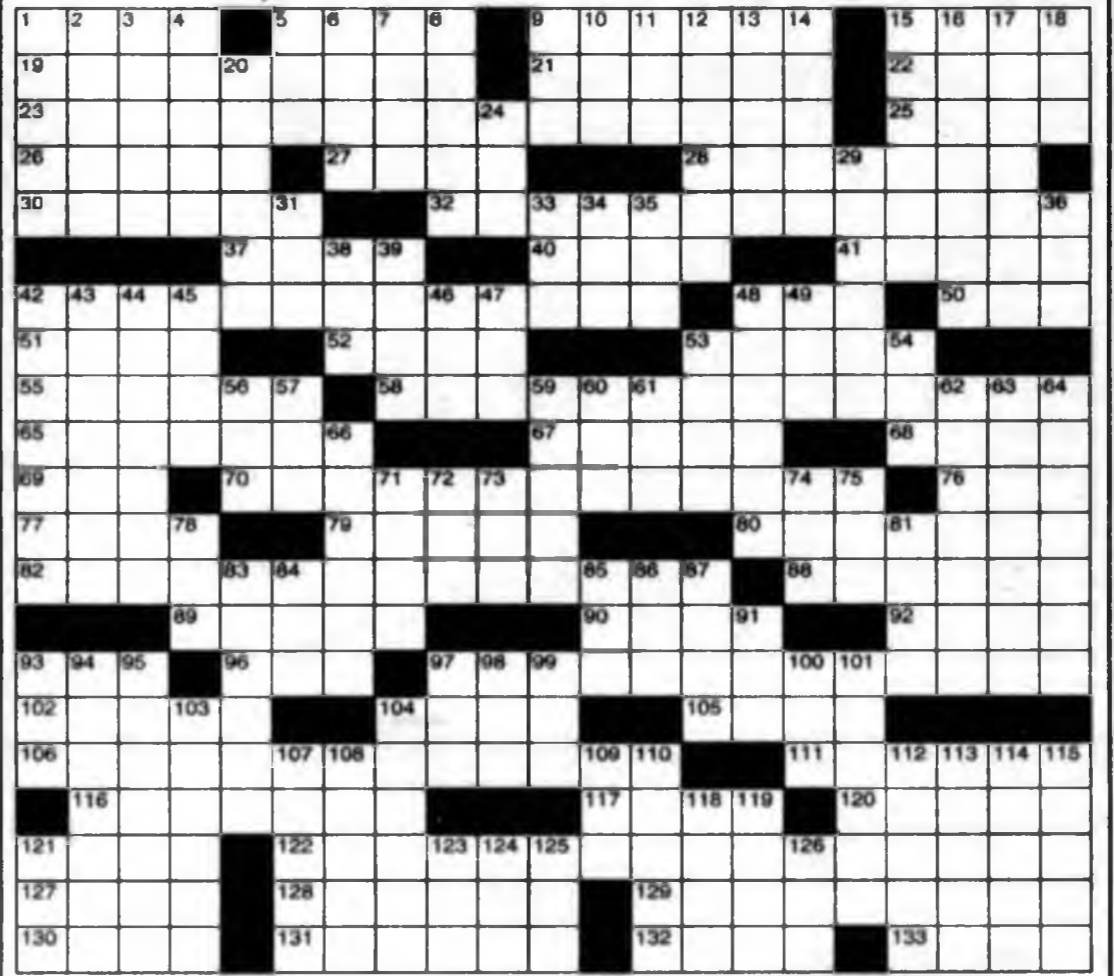
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## THURSDAY PUZZLE CORNER

### CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS**
- 1 Inuit vehicle
  - 5 In — (as first placed)
  - 9 Total fan
  - 15 Insolent talk
  - 19 Law enforcer
  - 21 Actress Peel or Pays
  - 22 Andy
  - 23 Taylor's boy
  - 24 Flatfish that was there first?
  - 25 WWII attack time
  - 26 Quality
  - 27 '63 Liz Taylor role
  - 28 Couple taking off to tie the knot
  - 30 Lookout person
  - 32 Product for whitening NASCAR drivers' garb?
  - 37 Kappa preceder
  - 40 Small — (be suspicious)
  - 41 Willing to do
  - 42 Wild horse's boastful talk?
  - 48 Battle milieu
  - 50 "The Waste Land" poet's initials.
- DOWN**
- 2 Peter of "M"
  - 3 González in 2000 news
  - 4 Pinkie, e.g.
  - 5 Capitol fig.
  - 6 Apple type
  - 7 '70', say
  - 8 In need of nourishment
  - 9 — Zedong
  - 10 — Darya (Asian river)
  - 11 Bread with vindaloo
  - 12 Put right?
  - 13 "A Passage to India" woman
  - 14 Substitute for chocolate company
  - 15 Hit a homer
  - 16 It lifts a kite
  - 17 Debacles
  - 18 Comic Tina language
  - 20 — acid (lime ingredient)
  - 24 Mauna —
  - 29 Not singular
  - 31 "— hoo!"
  - 33 Sun — seen
  - 34 Uno + due
  - 35 Rowing need
  - 36 Charles V's realm: Abbr.
- ACROSS**
- 51 Classic New York City theater
  - 52 Actress Gilbert
  - 53 Vax no end
  - 55 Single-celled swimmer
  - 58 Trajectory of a thrown winter weapon?
  - 65 Place affording a good view
  - 67 Related to kidneys
  - 68 Black bird
  - 69 Ending of pasta
  - 70 The cry "Hah, I scaled that peak and you didn't!"?
  - 76 Be obliged
  - 77 Rose Bowl org.
  - 79 Taka for one's own use
  - 121 Web app
  - 80 Manufacture
  - 82 Huddle of military officers?
  - 88 "Short and stout" vessel
  - 89 His cube became a craze
- DOWN**
- 90 Novelist Hunter
  - 92 Viral net phrase, say
  - 93 Anvil's organ
  - 96 Pill, e.g., briefly
  - 97 Powerful machine that pulverizes car splash guards?
  - 102 Censoring tone
  - 104 Opera part
  - 105 Mavens
  - 106 One who would've taken on Goliath if David had been unavailable?
  - 111 Take stock of
  - 116 Russian ballet company
  - 117 Tableland
  - 120 Sunni's deity
  - 121 Web app language
  - 122 Narratives recorded on CD?
  - 127 Prayer's end
  - 128 Beatified French lady
  - 129 Put in a different key
  - 130 Minaret
- ACROSS**
- 131 Ecstatic
  - 132 "Auld Lang"
  - 133 White bird
- DOWN**
- 38 "Conan" channel
  - 39 "Ah, so sad"
  - 43 Facing with courage
  - 44 Film genre
  - 45 Student at England's oldest university
  - 46 Nikita's "no"
  - 48 Samovar
  - 47 — Paulo
  - 48 Whack hard
  - 49 Justice Dept.
  - 53 Israeli fier
  - 54 Twitch
  - 56 "Sockol"
  - 57 In past time
  - 59 Legal papers
  - 60 Actor Affleck
  - 61 Director Lee
  - 62 Placed into categories
  - 63 "Why?"
  - 64 Wooler's counterpart
  - 68 Old Greek
  - 71 Arrow notch
  - 72 "My Mama Done — Me"
  - 73 TV's Kwik-E-Mart clerk
  - 74 Renoir's skill
  - 75 Foot 4-Down
  - 78 — Lingua
- DOWN**
- 81 Accurse
  - 83 Ado
  - 84 "Homer" guy
  - 85 Turner of TV
  - 86 First mate?
  - 87 — avis
  - 91 Network for Jimmy Fallon
  - 93 Recede
  - 94 Part of ASU
  - 95 Salvage
  - 97 Thu. follower
  - 98 A. in Vienna
  - 99 Hound
  - 100 Grazing field
  - 101 Op-eds, e.g.
  - 103 Actress Britt
  - 104 R&B artist
  - 105 Kaya
  - 107 Aspect
  - 108 L.A.'s region
  - 109 Rescued squad VIP
  - 110 Takes tan
  - 112 Insults
  - 113 Pipe shape
  - 114 Taco topper
  - 115 Soft luster
  - 118 Nimble
  - 119 Film scorer
  - 124 Plains native
  - 125 Beauty of "The Toy"
  - 126 Can. province
  - 128 Hex-ender



For assistance or suggestions on the Puzzle Corner, contact Steve McClellan at (517) 702-4247 or [smcclellan@michigan.com](mailto:smcclellan@michigan.com). Want more puzzles? Check out the "Just Right Crossword Puzzles" books at [QuillDriverBooks.com](http://QuillDriverBooks.com)

## SUDOKU

		3			5		8	
9	1						2	
				6				7
3			1	2				
		4				7		
			6		9			3
5				2				
	9						4	5
	2		9			8		

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	2	7	6	9	5	8	3	1
8	9	5	7	1	3	2	4	6
5	3	1	8	2	4	6	7	9
7	8	2	6	4	9	5	1	3
1	6	4	5	3	8	7	9	2
3	5	9	1	7	2	4	6	8
2	4	8	3	6	1	9	5	7
9	1	5	4	8	7	3	2	6
6	7	3	2	9	5	1	8	4

## TRAVEL TIME WORD SEARCH

N R I D O M E S T I C I E E L C G T V O  
K A V B L A C K O U T Y L E F M B Y Y U  
P A V C H E C K I N P B I I E R I C P L  
G E E A R F A R E H A S R R E A N Y A N  
E I T P I Y V Y C R U S E G G A Y N O I  
T G H I S L D H E R T S N E P A O N B E  
N N G L U K A F E C T E N U L I S V G L  
U I I E N S S B L R S C C E T T A A T Y  
O N L V N H A I S Y C D A O C E C L O  
C I F A A H S C A L O P N P A L K O U A  
S O M R F S T P T P I R F T I N V N G S  
I J T T V I U L H E T I H C I C F G S  
D D C O O P A L H T M O Y H S E L I A E  
L A T N F C V G N H N L L F A M H R R G N  
B J S I E N O I T A L L E C H N A C M E I  
U D E S T I N A T I O N L B T U F A Y S  
H P A S S P O R T V V B I E Y B J T N U  
E C C G N S S A P G N I D R A O B I F B  
E L U D E H C S T K T R O P R I A O C A  
L P Y J G Y R C O N T R A C T O A N V I

- WORDS**
- ADJOINING HUB
  - AGENCY INTERNATIONAL
  - AIRPORT LEISURE
  - AVAILABILITY LUGGAGE
  - BLACKOUT MILEAGE
  - BOARDING PASS NEUSTOP
  - BUSINESS OCCUPANCY
  - CANCELLATION PASSENGER
  - CHECK-IN PASSPORT
  - CONFIRMATION PEAK
  - CONTRACT RATE
  - DELAY RESTRICTIONS
  - DESTINATION SCHEDULE
  - DISCOUNT SUITE
  - DOMESTIC TRANSFERABLE
  - FARE TRAVEL
  - FIRST CLASS VACATION
  - FLIGHT VISA

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally & diagonally throughout the puzzle.

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS HERE**

**Crossword Answers**

1 ACROSS: SUVAT  
5 DOWN: IN  
9 ACROSS: FAN  
15 ACROSS: TALK  
19 ACROSS: SHERIFF  
21 ACROSS: PEARL  
22 DOWN: ANDY  
23 ACROSS: BOY  
24 DOWN: FLATFISH  
25 ACROSS: BOMBING  
26 ACROSS: QUALITY  
27 DOWN: LIZ  
28 ACROSS: COUPLE  
30 DOWN: LOOKOUT  
32 ACROSS: WHITENING  
37 DOWN: KAPPA  
40 ACROSS: SMALL  
41 ACROSS: WILLING  
42 ACROSS: BOASTFUL  
48 ACROSS: MILIEU  
50 ACROSS: WASTE

**Word Search Answers**

ACROSS: 131 ECSTATIC, 132 AULD LANG SYNE, 133 WHITE BIRD  
DOWN: 38 CONAN, 39 AH SO SAD, 43 FACING WITH COURAGE, 44 FILM GENRE, 45 NIKITA'S NO, 46 SAMOVAR, 47 PAULO, 48 WHACK HARD, 49 JUSTICE DEPT., 53 ISRAELI FIER, 54 TWITCH, 56 SOCKOL, 57 IN PAST TIME, 59 LEGAL PAPERS, 60 ACTOR AFFLECK, 61 DIRECTOR LEE, 62 PLACED INTO CATEGORIES, 63 WHY, 64 WOOLER'S COUNTERPART, 68 OLD GREEK, 71 ARROW NOTCH, 72 MY MAMA DONE ME, 73 TV'S KWIK-E-MART CLERK, 74 RENOIR'S SKILL, 75 FOOT 4-DOWN, 78 LINGUA

# Car Report

## MAZDA CX-9 LARGE SUV SHOWS WRY RND IS SUCCEEDING IN ITS PUSH FOR PREMIUMNESS



By Dale Buss

Mazda is attempting a unique straddling strategy to survive as a small brand in a U.S. market that has reached a number of inflection points.

It's an approach to product development, sales and marketing that combines hedging Mazda's bets — and being downright contrarian in places. The No. 12-selling marque in America is highlighting the importance of the driving experience at a time when most of its rivals are scrambling to be ready for the coming era of self-driving. And it is attempting to gain a premium cachet for its products but at value prices.

Mazda's 2017 CX-9 seven-passenger

SUV is a great illustration of why this strategy is working out so far. I put a Grand Touring version of CX-9 through its paces in a demanding week around Michigan, from north to south, and it delivered as required.

CX-9 demonstrated the premiumness that Mazda has promised so that it can stand up to competitors from Acura and Infiniti. Yet the version I drove checks out at only \$43,610.

Start with the exterior: CX-9 stands out in part because of a prominent proboscis which makes its styling unique in its class. This is definitely not a "me-too" approach for Mazda.

Also, the vehicle displayed all of the versatility that I could ask for, in holding vast amounts of vacation cargo but also in transitioning easily to comfortable and highly accessible seating for seven.

Its all-wheel-drive platform came in handy when plowing through sudden thunderstorms that had a small sedan



A Mazda's CX-9 styling lends much of its premium feel.

just in front of me on I-75 go into a dangerous spin. The ride was smooth, although not Lexus-level.

This CX-9 also boasted plenty of premium touches, including alloy wheels, aluminum and leather interior trim, an eight-inch color-display rear camera and heated power mirrors with turn lamps. Its automated-driving features were top-notch, including cruise control that comfortably kept me in line with the changing speeds of the traffic ahead of me.

But I found it interesting that Mazda doesn't include a panoramic sunroof of the type that has become very popular in premium vehicles, stretching wide across the vehicle and back across the second row of seats.

Even the top version of CX-9, which offers rosewood and napa leather trim, doesn't boast a panoramic sunroof. They all have the more traditional, smaller design for a sunroof.

"A panoramic sunroof is a nice-to-

have, but most people are driving in the front seat and care about what they see, and the sunroofs we have accomplish that," Mazda Vice President of Marketing Russell Wager told me. In that specific feature, he said, the tradeoff between payback and price isn't worthwhile.

After a week with CX-9, I found myself agreeing with one of the commercials in Mazda's new "Driver's Choice" ad campaign in which the brand features real people — and premium car owners — participating in a sort of blind taste test of Mazdas versus other vehicles in their segments.

Mazda conceals the identities of its own models and identifying marks of the competitors. The upshot: After putting them through their paces, the majority of those surveyed preferred Mazda vehicles when they didn't know the identity of the brands.

In the CX-9 ad, one driver called the vehicle he drove — which he later

found out was a CX-9 — "nice and responsive" and "one I'd want to drive every day." Another driver mentioned that, because of leather and other interior materials, CX-9 "feels very well-crafted."

CX-9 also demonstrates Mazda's strategy for nurturing a number of sub-brands and subsidiary concepts as important elements of its premiumness formula.

These include Skyactiv, a suite of technology and weight-saving features across all Mazda vehicles, optimizing everything from the powertrain to the materials in structural elements. And CX-9's long nose is a manifestation of "Koda," Mazda's name for its dynamic exterior design language that has resulted in a highly streamlined family of vehicles that make a statement with their styling.

Wager said that Mazda knows its attempt to move upscale in consumer perceptions is working, for a few reasons. For instance, transaction prices "are continuing to increase across the lineup," he said. And in consumer research, Mazda has seen an increase over the last couple of years in affirmative answers to questions such as "Are you willing to pay more for a Mazda? Do you consider Mazda to be premium?"

In other words, Mazda's move upscale is nicely aligned with what's happening in the U.S. market overall as there has been a significant decline in sales of economic, gas-sipping sedans of the type that used to characterize Mazda.



Inside, the CX-9's versatility is a big plus

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NOVI 21883 Piccadilly Circle Fri 7/21, Noon-4pm, 7/22 & 10-4pm 7/23 Upscale furn, decor, presline cond.

TAYLOR, 8419 Katherine St. Thurs-Sat 7/20-7/22; 10-5. Mancave Items

**Garage-Tag Sale**  
Birmingham, Garage, 975 McKeon, Michigan, 48009 Fri: 10-2, Sat: 10-2. HUGE VARIETY: furniture, tools, home goods, clothes, toys, games, and much more. Slime sale too! Dir: First block west on McKeon off Adams

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**GARAGE SALE**  
Bloomfield Hills, Garage/Estate Sale, 3715 Shallow Brook Dr, Michigan, 48307 July 21: Fri: 9-5PM, July 22: Sat: 9-5PM. Pottery Barn bedroom sets, dining room, living room furniture, lamps, pictures, American Girl dolls, Vera Bradley (new), clothes (Lilly Pul, teen dresses), misc. Dir: off Long Lake east of Telegraph (Devon Hills)

Canton: 1934 Briarfield, Moving Sale, beautiful formal DR sets, furniture & miscellaneous. Call: 734-397-6958

LIVONIA 2 Family Sale 15195 Adams Court 7/20, 7/21 & 7/22; 9am-4pm Boys clothing, toys, Bounce house, play house, H/H items, clothing & more

Livonia, Garage Sale, 37478 Eagle Dr., Michigan, 48150 Thur: 8-3, Fri: 8-3, Sat: 8-3. Household items, toys/games, boys clothes sz: 8-10, misc. items, Dir: W of Newburgh; between AA Trail & Joy Rd.

LIVONIA, HIGH END ESTATE 14407 Ellen Dr, 6 Mile in Wayne Rd. Fri 7/21, Sat 7/22 & Sun 7/23; 9-4p. Jewelry, Beautiful Furn, tools, & much much more! Entire House!

**2 DAYS ONLY**  
NEW HUDSON, MOVING SALE, 30091 Town Square Ct, Michigan, 48165 Thur: 9-5, Fri: 9-5, household items, books, sports equip, yarn, purses, AND much more.

**GARAGE SALE**  
Plymouth, Garage, 288 N Harvey Street, Sat: 9-5. Three family garage sale. One day only: furniture, new garden items, household items, toys, etc., Dir: Near Church and Main

REDFORD, 16632 Lata Dr Sun 7/16 11a-5p. HH Items, Brick-a-Brock, Kids toys!

**Adopt Me Pets**  
find a new friend...

**Pet Services**  
LOW COST VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC - New Hudson Sun., August 6, 2-5PM DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year Rabies \$17, Heartworm Test \$19 MUST BRING AD. Questions: 313-686-5701

LOW COST VACCINE WELLNESS RURAL KING Sun, July 23rd, 9:30-12:30pm. DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, Rabies, 3 yr \$17, Heartworm Test \$19. Must bring ad. Questions: 313-686-5701

LOW COST VACCINE WELLNESS RURAL KING Sun, July 23rd, 9:30-12:30pm. DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, Rabies, 3 yr \$17, Heartworm Test \$19. Must bring ad. Questions: 313-686-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC Highland Feed & Supply 217 E. Livingston Rd. Sat August 19th, 10am-1pm DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year Rabies \$17, Heartworm Test \$19 MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear & Eye exams avail. 313-686-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC Highland Feed & Supply 217 E. Livingston Rd. Sat August 19th, 10am-1pm DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year Rabies \$17, Heartworm Test \$19 MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear & Eye exams avail. 313-686-5701

LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC (WHITMORE LAKE) Friday, July 28th, 10am-2pm DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year Rabies \$17, Heartworm Test \$19 MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear & Eye Exams Available. 313-686-5701

**Pet Services**  
LOW COST VET VACCINE WELLNESS CLINIC TSC (WHITMORE LAKE) 4850 Whitmore Lake Friday, July 28th, 10am-2pm DHPP Lepto CV BDT \$51, 3 year Rabies \$17, Heartworm Test \$19 MUST BRING AD. Skin, Ear & Eye Exams Available. 313-686-5701

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Refrigerator, 5 burner gas range, microwave, & dish washer. All black. Changing to stainless. Excellent condition. \$700. SOLD!

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CROWN VIC 1998, 105k Miles no rust, 2 sets of new tires, winter and summer, on their own tires \$3,200 517-672-9231

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**Exquisite Home in Great Neighborhood**  
\*This beautiful four bedroom, three and half bathrooms, located on 2.26 acres is a must see  
\*Spacious dining room with crown molding, open kitchen with breakfast room  
\*First floor laundry with porcelain tile, cabinets and sink  
\*Stunning master suite  
MLS 217040546 248.684.1065 \$525,000



**Coldspring Court**  
\*This five bedroom, three and half bathrooms, is just minutes from downtown Northville  
\*Updated kitchen with granite counters and hard floor, double oven and two pantries  
\*This home features an Elevator that provides access to all three levels  
\*Professionally landscaped yard with composite deck, bridge walkway, gazebo and a salt water  
MLS 217036450 248.684.1065 \$649,900



**Custom Built Home in Desirable Westacres!**  
\*This five bedroom, four and half bathroom, cozy cottage home has amazing lake views  
\*Kitchen features a sub-zero refrigerator, high end range with steamer and hickory cabinets  
\*Theatre room has an 8ft HD projection screen  
\*Oversized three car garage with direct access to the basement and outside  
MLS 217042605 248.684.1065 \$595,000



**Exquisite One of Kind Lake Sherwood Home!**  
\*This lake front home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms with amazing view throughout \*Updated kitchen with delightful breakfast nook and barn wood accent wall  
\*First floor master suite with lakefront views, jetted tub and custom walk in shower  
\*Spacious finished basement with bedroom and plenty of for entertaining  
MLS 217052442 248.684.1065 \$734,900



**Gorgeous Cape Cod in Desirable Lake Oaks!**  
\*This home features four bedrooms, three and half bathrooms on 1.84 acres  
\*Gourmet kitchen with granite counters, hardwood flooring and desk area  
\*Master bedroom has private deck, 2 walk in closets, cathedral ceilings and bath with jetted tub  
\*Full finished basement with kitchenette, full bath, rec room and laundry  
MLS 217055133 248.684.1065 \$569,000



**Peaceful Ranch on 1.5 Acres!**  
\*This gorgeous Ranch has three bedrooms and two bathrooms  
\*Updated kitchen with patterned granite, refinished cabinets and hardwood flooring  
\*Dining room with arched opening and cathedral ceiling  
\*Finished walkout with family room, rec room and work out area  
MLS 217047128 248.684.1065 \$369,000



**Completely Updated 1940's Bungalow!**  
\*This Bungalow features three bedrooms and two bathrooms  
\*Cozy granite kitchen with tiled backsplash, soft close cabinets and ceramic flooring  
\*The master bath and main bathroom feature hand cut porcelain tile, and oil rubbed bronze fixtures  
\*Privately fenced yard has invisible fence that outlines the garden  
MLS 217056595 248.684.1065 \$259,000



**Adorable Colonial in Desirable Subdivision!**  
\*This home features three bedrooms two and half bathrooms  
\*Great floor plan, finished basement and beautiful landscaping  
\*Oversized lot, and stamped concrete patio in backyard  
\*Neighborhood features tennis courts, clubhouse and community pool  
MLS 217057283 248.684.1065 \$245,000



**Gorgeous Custom Built Colonial!**  
\*This home features five bedrooms, four and half bathrooms located on a quiet cul de sac  
\*Beautiful gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and hardwood floors  
\*Great room equipped with temperature controlled wine cellar & cozy bar  
\*Full finished basement with kitchen, bedroom, full bath and living room  
MLS 217057350 248.684.1065 \$549,900



**Beautiful Brick Ranch on 5 Acres!**  
\*This home features four bedrooms and three and half bathrooms and a three car garage  
\*Gourmet kitchen with double ovens, granite island and stainless steel appliances  
\*Spectacular master suite with two walk in closets and whirlpool tub  
\*Lower level includes, a large bedroom, full bathroom, exercise room and wet bar  
MLS 217059849 248.684.1065 \$599,713



**Build The Home Of Your Dreams!**  
\*Pictured is a four bedroom, two and half bathroom, Colonial, on 1.03 acres  
\*Many floor plans, with natural fire place and hardwood floors  
\*Brick and stone with covered porch  
\*Island kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances  
MLS 216116498 248.684.1065 \$499,000



**Gorgeous Colonial on Over 1 Acre!**  
\*This four bedroom, two and half bathroom Colonial, has a spacious backyard perfect for a pool  
\*Spacious kitchen with expansive island, granite counters and maple cabinets  
\*Master suite with sitting area, finished basement with plenty of space for entertaining  
\*Located just minutes from downtown Milford and Kensington Park  
MLS 217024941 248.684.1065 \$450,000

"Our agent stayed in contact with us throughout the entire process" A & RR

**Home for Sale - In State**

Formington Hills, 48336 BY OWNER, 3 bdrm, 2.5 ba, 1440 sq. ft., btl 2003, stov, frige, dshwar, diaposl, micro, 1st flr laundry, xtra deep unfin basmt, c/p, trpl, 2+ car, \$195,000. (248)321-7759 colonial, jetted tub master

**GARDEN CITY - Hot New Listing**  
3 Bdrms, Bungalow with huge upper master bdrm, updated BA & kitchen w/stove, barnl, 2 car GA on large corner lot. \$177,900  
Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**HURON TWP- Old World Charm**  
3 bdrm Cape Cod, covered front porch, open fir, plan, LR, Din Rm, Kitchen w/stove & fridge, huge master bdrm, barnl w/washer & dryer, 2 car Gar, GA, \$129,000  
Century 21 Castelli 734-525-7900

**Open House**



**BRIGHTON AREA**  
OPEN SUN 2-4pm 11130 Fairlane Custom built home, 4137 SF, 4 bed, 3.5 bath, 2 acre wooded site, 375' of water frontage with dock on private Fish Lake. Open floor plan highlighted by 2 story Great Room, upscale kit with island, 1st floor master bed plus 2nd master suite or office with separate entry and stairs. Enjoy swimming, fishing, pontoon boating, 1800 SF of decks and walkways. \$675,000. I-96 South US-23, E on Silver Lake exit, to 5 on Marshall Rd, turn L on Fairlane. Dave Marlorton, 734-276-7456, 734-971-6070 The Charles Reinhart Company

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